

Cromford Church Of England Primary School



September 2026 Newsletter

What a busy start to the term it's been! It's been wonderful to see all of the children back in school. The school is alive with the sound of voices, singing and learning (and football at break times!)

Welcome to all our new reception students and any other students who have joined us over the course of the summer.

Our Christian ethos is based around the Parable of the Mustard Seed. In it, Jesus tells of a farmer who planted a mustard seed which, with much watering and care, became a huge bush to support all birds around.. That's what I want for the school- to be at the centre of the community, giving support where it's needed. And I think the children are the mustard seeds, though they start small, they will one day grow into something big that forms a foundation of their own.

The rest of the staff and I are looking forward to this year to support them to do it.

Do come and say hello on the gate if you haven't already!

Kind regards,

House Points

House points have started pouring in and Willersley are currently in the lead!

RIBER

289

CHATSWORTH

234

WILLERSLEY

312

Learn, aspire and achieve in a caring Christian environment

Cromford C of E Primary School

North Street

Cromford

Derbyshire

DE4 3RG

Telephone number: 01629 822248

Email: info@cromford.derbyshire.sch.uk

Website: cromford.eschools.co.uk/web

Twitter: twitter.com/cromfordprimary

Facebook: [Cromford C of E Primary School | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/Cromford.C.of.E.Primary.School)



Attendance

As we begin another school year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support in ensuring that your child attends school regularly and punctually. Working together, we can give every child the best possible chance to succeed.

I am writing to remind families of the importance of avoiding holidays during term time. School attendance plays a vital role in children's academic achievement, social development, emotional wellbeing and future success. Every school day is carefully planned and learning builds progressively from one lesson to the next. Even a short absence can result in a child missing key knowledge, skills and experiences that are difficult, if not impossible, to replicate outside the classroom.

When children are taken on holiday during term time, they can experience several disadvantages:

- Gaps in learning that may affect their progress and confidence.
- Difficulties catching up with work that has been missed.
- Missing important practical activities, discussions and collaborative learning opportunities.
- Increased anxiety when returning to school and finding that classmates have moved on.
- Reduced continuity in friendships and social development.
- Lower attendance rates, which are closely linked to lower educational outcomes.

While we appreciate that family holidays can be valuable experiences, there are often reasons given for requesting term-time absence that cannot be considered exceptional.

One such reason is the cost of holidays during school holidays. We fully understand that travel and accommodation can be significantly more expensive outside term time. However, financial considerations alone do not constitute exceptional circumstances. If cost were accepted as a reason for authorising absence, the attendance expectations applied to all families would become inconsistent and difficult to maintain fairly.

Similarly, parents sometimes refer to a child's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) as justification for a term-time holiday. While we recognise that some children with SEND may benefit from family time, having SEND in itself is not a reason for authorised absence. Children with SEND often benefit greatly from the routines, structure, specialist support and interventions that school provides. Time away from school can interrupt this support and may make the transition back into learning more challenging.

Our aim is never to prevent families from spending quality time together. Rather, it is to ensure that every child receives the full educational entitlement they deserve. The vast majority of family holidays can be planned during the 13 weeks of school holidays that occur throughout the academic year.

We ask all parents and carers to support the school by ensuring holidays are arranged outside term time wherever possible. By doing so, you will help your child make the most of every learning opportunity and maximise their chances of success. Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Staffing update

Sadly, Mrs Fearn retired over the summer. We'd like to thank Mrs Fearn for her support, generosity and commitment during her time at Cromford CofE. Mrs Fearn will be greatly missed by the staff and children and we wish her all the best for the future.

Parents Evening



Parents evening will be held on Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th November between 3:30 and 6pm. An email and in-app message was sent 02.10.2026 regarding this, please email the office if you have not received it. You must be logged in to Arbor in order to book your slot. The slots open on Friday 9th October at 8am.

Swimming



All swimming dates can be found in Arbor or on our website [here](#).

Forest School



Forest School takes place on a Thursday afternoon. Please send a change of clothes/shoes suitable for the weather when your child takes part. The timetable for forest schools can be found in Arbor and on the website [here](#).

Inset Days



Inset days are listed in the school calendar [here](#) and in Arbor.

Bikeability



The Y6 Level 1 Bikeability will take place on **Wednesday 18th November**. A letter will be sent to the Y6 parents this week.

Panto



We're on the ball again this year, the letter for the Panto has already been sent out and is already available to book in Arbor. Please email the office if you didn't receive the letter.

Children in Need 2026



Children in Need will take place on **Friday 13th November**. More details will follow in the next newsletter.

Harvest Festival



Our Harvest Festival will take place on **Wednesday 21st** at **1:30pm** at **St Mary's Church** in Cromford. We will be collecting food for the Jigsaw Foodbank again. Donation items can be handed to a member of staff. Thank you for your continued support.

Diary Dates

All diary dates can now be found in Arbor and on the website calendar [here](#).

Owls Class

The Owls class had the pleasure of being taught by Mr Wilson one afternoon. The children thoroughly enjoyed his company and the lesson:

