

CROMWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Cromwell Learning Community Multi Academy Trust

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End of Autumn Term Newsletter

Dear Parent / Carers,

Thank you for all your support over a very busy term culminating in an excellent production of 'The Nativity' by the children in EYFS and theatre visits for Yrs. 1 – 6! We hope you now all enjoy a well-deserved break, and we would like to wish those families celebrating, a very merry Christmas.

The school will re-open in the new year on Monday 5th January 2026 and ask that all families return promptly. This is particularly important, to ensure good attendance is maintained.



Attendance

As we come to the end of term we'd like to thank all those families who have supported the school and their child/children's best interests by sending them into school each day. We cannot emphasise enough, the link between attendance and attainment and in our recent Rewards Assembly, we were delighted to be able to celebrate 96% attendance, and more, with so many of our children! However, we do acknowledge that like so many other schools in Birmingham, a significant number of children have this half term been absent due to sickness. As we move into the Spring Term, we hope everyone will have returned to full health and we can focus on us achieving high attendance rates again.

Though some families were late returning at the start of this academic year there have been relatively few requests for term time leave to date, which is positive. Notification of any leave is important, in terms of safeguarding, but families are again reminded that leave can only be granted in *exceptional circumstances*. Requests revolving around parental work commitments and/or the availability of cheaper flights or holidays will not be seen as 'exceptional'. Unauthorised leave may then result in a fine of £80 per child, which applies to each adult with parental responsibility, and rises to £160 if not paid to the local authority within 21 days.

Staffing

As you are aware from previous newsletters, recruitment and retention is an ongoing issue in schools across the country, including our own. Over 114,000 teachers (outside of retirement) left the profession between 2021 and 2024 with studies showing 10.3% of Early Career Teachers leaving after one year, and the figure rising to 32.4% after five years. Reflecting this 'crisis' in education there have, across the MAT, been some changes to staffing this term. As you are aware, Miss Ibrahim has taken responsibility for Yr.5 and Miss Sultana Yr.1. Ms Kee will be based at Bordesley Village in the Spring Term, but in January we will welcome an experienced practitioner, Miss Ashraf, back to Cromwell to lead our Nursery. We are sure some of you will recognise and remember her!

Parent Consultations

Parent consultations will take place at the beginning of the Spring Term. **School will be closed to all pupils on Monday 12th January** to allow for meetings with teachers across the school day. The meetings will enable you to discuss your child's current level of attainment, their personal targets, but also their behaviour for learning. They are important meetings – you can share your child's books and see for yourself their strengths and areas for development. Should you have any concerns you can also raise these, in confidence, with the class teacher. Details of the day and its timings will be sent out on our return, but we hope all parents will engage with the school and support their child.



<https://cromwell.eschools.co.uk/>



@cromwellprimary



Collection Arrangements

As part of safeguarding, it is important that families are clear of our protocols for end of day collections. While parents should ensure that the school is notified of any authorised adults and they are recorded on our database, there may be **occasions when another person, such as a friend or neighbour is asked to collect your child/children from the school. On such occasions it is essential that the Admin Team are notified, in good time, and a password agreed. Without this notification class teachers will not be able to release the child, even if the adult is known to the school and/or is part of its community.** This can be frustrating for the person collecting, but a call must be made, via the main Reception, requesting authorisation, which can be time consuming at this busy period of the day. We hope this clarification of expectations will address any issues in the future and we continue to work in partnership with one another.

And finally dates for the diary.

Spring Term

Spring (i) Monday 5.1.26 – Friday 13.2.26

School closed to pupils on Monday 12th January - Parent Consultations

Spring Half Term 16.2.26 – 20.2.26

Spring (ii) Monday 23.2.26 – Friday 27.3.26

Spring Term Break – 30.3.26 – 10.4.26

Summer Term

Summer (i) Monday 13.4.26 – Friday 22.5.26

School closed to pupils on Monday 4th May – Early May Bank Holiday & Thursday 7th May - Local Elections

Summer Half Term 25.5.26 – 29.5.26

Summer (ii) Monday 1.6.26 – Friday 17.7.26

School Term Break – 20.7.26 – 3.9.26

Yours sincerely,

Rubina Darr

R.Darr (Mrs)

Snr. Executive Leader