



Crackley Hall  
School

2021-2022

# *Review*

A look back at an exciting and busy school year.





# Welcome

Welcome to the second edition of the Crackley Review, looking back at the 2021/22 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.

Following on from last year, I believe it once again captures the special moments and memories of the past year, celebrating the successes and highlights across the year groups. This year was a return to 'normal' in many ways, with parents welcomed back to assemblies and our extra-curricular clubs back to full capacity.

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

*"I believe it once again captures the special moments and memories of the past year, celebrating the successes and highlights across the year groups."*

## Contents

03	Prize Giving 2022	24	Junior 1	44	Spiritual
05	Book Prizes	27	Reception	45	Platinum Jubilee
06	Achievements	30	Nursery	46	Crackley Compass
08	School Leaders	32	Whole School Initiatives	47	Good Schools Guide
09	Junior 6	34	Art Show	48	PTA News
12	Junior 5	35	Residentials	49	75th Anniversary
15	Junior 4	36	Productions	50	Staff
18	Junior 3	39	Sport		
21	Junior 2	42	Sports Day		

# Prize Giving 2022

## Prize Giving Celebrates Achievements of the School 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 our celebrations took place on Thursday 30 June, with the Lower School receiving their awards in the afternoon and Junior 5 and 6 in the evening.

Headmaster, Mr Duigan gave a thought-provoking speech, he gave thanks to the many who give so much to the school in so many ways. He challenged every boy and every girl to learn something new every day and reminded that those who succeed have to be brave enough to fail. He encouraged all the children to strive to do their best and to never limit themselves.

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, achievement, resilience and endeavour, compassion and care and contribution to school life. Followed by cups and 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	Elle Weir
Zanyi Chalmers Award	Dillon Horan
Scholarship Award	Alexander Ainsworth
Sister Mary Patrick Trophy for Caring	Stephanie Perkins
PTA Crackley Hall Shield	Lily Bryson

As the ceremonies concluded, all Crackley pupils were encouraged to reflect on their achievements this year, as prize winner or not, all should be rightfully proud.

Award	Winner/s
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### Our Head Pupil Awards of Service

To our outgoing Head Boy	Aaron Anderson
To our outgoing Head Girl	Lily Bryson

### The Arts Awards

Lord Cup for Artistic Endeavour	Morton Wilcox-Smith
Abbotsford Cup for Art and Design	Merryn Cleary
Moore Shield for Ballet Dancer of the Year	Sloane Camilleri-Willis
St Joseph's Salver for Progress and Endeavour in the Performing Arts	Marley Hardwick
Crackley Award for Commitment to the Performing Arts	Willow Rochford
David Lloyd Performing Arts Trophy	Elsie Glover
Penny Matthews Shield for Singing and Musical Theatre	Grace Johnson
Kyriakou Trophy for Music	Alexander Ainsworth

### The Co-curricular and Sport Awards

Vaughan Trophy for Rounders	Olivia Burley
Duigan Cup for Cricket	Harry Riley and Henry Spicer
Vital Shield for Netball	Jasmine Staveley
Crackley Hall Rugby Trophy	George Moreton
Boraston Shield for Tag Rugby	Leonardo Pavli





# Prize Giving 2022



Award	Winner/s
Fermahan Shield for Athletics	Sidney Penn and Elle Weir
Wood Shield for Hockey	Oliver Moore and Issey Cleary
Vital Shield for Football	Leonardo Pavli
Crackley Hall Swimming Salver	Issey Cleary
Crackley Hall Award for the Most Improved Sports Person	Dexter Robinson and Merryn Cleary
Marshall Shield for Endeavour in Sport	George Wilcox and Isabella Downes-Black
Crackley Hall Shield for Sporting Excellence	Issey Cleary
Dick Trophy for Sport	Sidney Penn
<b>The Academic Awards</b>	
Mansfield Shield for Sustained Effort and Progress in Learning Support	Elle Weir and William Cooke
Doust Shield for Attitude and Approach to Learning Support	Harry Faulconbridge
Williams Cup for Sustained Effort and Progress	Holly Lloyd-Evans
Rhys Taylor Cup for Endeavour	Alfred Cowell
Roderick Jones Trophy for French	Penelope O'Neill
Timms Cup for ICT	Alexander Ainsworth
Lammas Trophy for Geography	Aaron Anderson
Keeley Cup for History	Elsie Roots
Simmonds Trophy for RE	Joseph McKeown
Castens Award for Science	Agnes Crinion
Head Award for Lower KS2 Science	Josh Bhushan
Le Poidevin Shield for English	Lily Bryson
Clark Cup for Mathematics	George Knott
<b>Special Awards</b>	
Da Vinci Shield (Boys)	Jack Phillips-Gore
Da Vinci Shield (Girls)	Elora Hughes

# Book Prizes

Form	Prize 2022	Name
<b>Reception A</b>	Achievement	Jovan Phagura
	Effort and Diligence	Ciara Taylor
	Progress	Daya Sanghera
	School Spirit and Kindness	George Potter
<b>Reception M</b>	Achievement	Bevan Abraham
	Effort and Diligence	Nirvair Sanghera
	Progress	Marley Dabo
	School Spirit and Kindness	Ella James
<b>Junior 1</b>	Achievement	Ashleigh Aston
	Effort and Diligence	Rory Williams
	Progress	Lillyrose Moss
	School Spirit and Kindness	Cameron Beales
<b>Junior 2B</b>	Achievement	Hector Gautier-Collins
	Effort and Diligence	Francesca Lakey
	Progress	Thea Lee
	School Spirit and Kindness	Alexander Cook
<b>Junior 2G</b>	Achievement	Henry Feng
	Effort and Diligence	Thomas Devine
	Progress	Leyton Hunt
	School Spirit and Kindness	Joshua Poulter
<b>Junior 3V</b>	Achievement	Joseph Beaman-Henderson
	Effort and Diligence	Mahnoor Bhatti
	Progress	Evelyn Burns
	School Spirit and Kindness	Amelia McCullough
<b>Junior 3H</b>	Achievement	Jacob Chadwick
	Effort and Diligence	Charlotte Chan
	Progress	Henry Ferguson
	School Spirit and Kindness	Gwen Kiteley

Form	Prize 2022	Name
<b>Junior 4S</b>	Achievement	Elora Hughes
	Effort and Diligence	Darcey Wilcox Smith
	Progress	Isabelle Farmer
	School Spirit and Kindness	Sukhmani Sanghera
<b>Junior 4R</b>	Achievement	Elizabeth Edkins
	Effort and Diligence	Hollie Sparkes
	Progress	Seb Rotheram
	School Spirit and Kindness	Grace Farmer
<b>Junior 5L</b>	Achievement	Lucas Hobson
	Effort and Diligence	Nell Kiteley
	Progress	Jessie Sephton
	School Spirit and Kindness	Chloe Tomkinson
<b>Junior 5W</b>	Achievement	Theo Cowlshaw
	Effort and Diligence	Esme Card
	Progress	Rayane Bajddi
	School Spirit and Kindness	Beatrice Wood
<b>Junior 6H</b>	Achievement	George Knott
	Effort and Diligence	Amelia Dutton
	Progress	George Druse and Leo Fella
	School Spirit and Kindness	Harry Gibson
	Resilience and Endeavour	Sebastian Williams and Penny O'Neill
	Compassion and Care	Alex Hammon and Mya Vincent
	Contribution to School Life	Elsie Roots and Olivia Burley
<b>Junior 6V</b>	Achievement	Jack Phillips-Gore
	Effort and Diligence	Hattie Bowler-Willis
	Progress	Mikey Bell and Henry Kiteley
	School Spirit and Kindness	Jack McKay
	Resilience and Endeavour	Kyra Khanna and Carolina Jaeger-Laurent
	Compassion and Care	Summer Fletcher and Kian Thandi
	Contribution to School Life	Holly Lloyd-Evans





# Achievements



## Three Award for FrankenSTEM

Crackley Hall School's FrankenSTEM team won three awards in the F1 In Schools Regional Finals and in October 2021 the school was delighted to receive trophies to recognise the children's success. The awards were for Team Identity, Verbal Presentation and Best Portfolio and the pupils, now in Junior 6, were very happy to pose for photos with their awards.

Team 'FrankenSTEM', comprising of Lily Bryson, Alfred Cowell, Marley Hardwick and Elsie Roots had toiled long and hard, to prepare for the competition, an annual challenge that requires the teams to research, design, manufacture, test, promote and race the fastest car possible using standard chassis and engine housing nets with a car body made only from card. It is a technical brief but one proven to really engage potential future engineers.

## Prize Winning Artists

Former Crackley Hall pupil, Millie Lammas, was awarded first prize in the Independent Schools' Association's prestigious National Art Competition. Her impressive entry, *Before Going Over The Top*, a 3D model, depicting the trenches in World War One, which she produced when she was in Junior 6, was placed first in the Key Stage 2 Art 3D Individual class.

The National competition followed on from the Midlands competition where last year's Junior 1 class also took first prize in the Key Stage 1 Art 3D Group class with their incredible piece *Town On The Hill*.



## Pupils Take On The Primary Maths Challenge

At Crackley this year we had 35 pupils take part in the Primary Maths Challenge, a fun and exciting mathematical challenge aimed at pupils in Year 5 and 6.

Designed to encourage enthusiasm, boost confidence in mathematics and develop problem solving 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** Georgina Skrypchuk

**Silver** Isabelle Cleary, George Knott, Lily Bryson, Jack Phillips-Gore, Matilda Clarke, Theo Cowlshaw, Lucas Hobson, Kate Knudsen, Julia Kozhan, Georgie Rea

**Bronze** Alex Ainsworth, Aaron Anderson, Agnes Crinion, Dillon Horan, Jack McKay, Joseph McKeown, Penelope O'Neill, Elsie Roots, Jasmine Staveley, Kian Thandi, Nell Kiteley, Isabella Olden, Andrew Parizzi, Penny Thomas, Leo Warne

A huge well done to all who took part



## Isabella Performed With ESO Youth Orchestra

Junior 5 pupil, Isabella Olden performed with the English Symphony Youth Orchestra in a concert at the Three Counties Showground in Malvern on Sunday 31 October.

9-year-old Isabella, who is a talented trumpet player, performed alongside over 100 young people aged 6 to 18 years, at grades 0 to 8, playing two challenging pieces, Holst's *Mars* and Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet Overture*.

To prepare for the performance Isabella had attended a two-day workshop at Bromsgrove School where she worked in the Intermediate group, Grades 4-7, with musicians many much older than herself. A huge well done to Isabella, what a great experience for her!



## Christmas Card Competition

Junior 6 pupil Marley Hardwick was awarded Highly Commended in the 2021 Catholic Independent Schools Conference (CISC) Christmas card competition. The theme for the competition this year was 'O Holy Night' and for his entry Marley produced a sensitive and stunning water colour of the Nativity scene. His painting was so charming that it was also selected as Highly Commended in the school's Christmas card competition, and features as a cameo on the reverse of the school's card.



### Maths Week Money Box

Junior 6 pupil, Jack, won the Maths Week England Design A Money Box Competition. Jack's design was chosen as the winner in the 9-11 years category. The charity LifeSavers ran the competition as part of its support for Maths Week England, challenging children to design a money box that included ideas on what they wanted to save for or what motivates them to save.



### Crackley Pupils Achieve Outstanding LAMDA results

At Crackley Hall pupils from Junior 3 to Junior 6 study for the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) examinations in their Drama lessons. Junior 3 and Junior 4 take the Introductory Level and Stage 1 and 2. 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 choice of poem with the examiner.

In January Junior 3 and 4 took a well-deserved bow and round of applause for their fantastic LAMDA examination results. All the Junior 3 children passed and 80% of them achieved the top mark of a distinction. All of Junior 4 passed with 100% achieving the top two grades of Merit or Distinction.

In May Junior 5 and 6 achieved a fantastic 100% pass rate for their Speaking Verse and Prose examinations, with most children achieving the highest categories of Merit or Distinction.

Well done to all the children who worked so hard and performed their pieces with such confidence. These crucial skills will go on to serve them well as they progress through their years at school and beyond.

### Musical Maestros

Music exams took place in December, March and June from Pre-Preparatory and Step 1 and 2 Tests up through the grades to Grade 7 on the Piano, Violin, Musical Theatre, Trumpet and Cello.

All children passed and there were a high number of Merits and Distinctions but our special congratulations went to Aaron Anderson and Elsie Glover who both achieved a Distinction in their Grade 6 Musical Theatre examinations and to Isabella Olden who passed her Grade 7 Trumpet with Distinction.



### Choral Speaking Group Come First At Nuneaton Festival Of Arts

Nine pupils from Crackley Hall celebrated after winning the coveted Meredith Cup for Choral Speaking at the Nuneaton Festival of Arts on Tuesday 4 May.

The group performed *Pandora's Box* by Paul Perro and *Refugees* by Brian Bilston, beautifully. The adjudicator critiqued their performances at 'Commended' and 'Distinction' levels respectively, ensuring the group took first place. The judge commented on their strong focus, control, and energy which, together with their style and skill, engaged the audience emotionally and passionately.

Drama teacher Nicki Wildey was delighted, commenting, "We are so proud of the children's commitment to the Choral Speaking Club. They have worked really hard and to come first is such an achievement. They have made us, their parents and the whole school very proud."

It's a fantastic result for them all.

### A Host Of Medals At The Leamington Festival

Crackley Hall School had a fantastic day at the Leamington Festival of Arts in June, when children from Junior 3 to Junior 6 competed performing a variety of poetry and prose to a distinguished adjudicator. They showed commendable confidence and performance skills and were a cut above the rest, winning a whole host of gold, silver and bronze medals and receiving excellent feedback from the adjudicator who was very impressed with the high standard of performance on the day.

All together, Crackley pupils came away with five gold medals, six silver medals, five bronze medals and four certificates, an amazing achievement. Special mention must go to Willow Rochford from Junior 6 who won a gold, silver and bronze medal for her performances. Congratulations also to Elsie Glover, Leo Clarke, Mairén Steel and Marley Hardwick who were our other gold medallists.



# School Leaders

## 2021-2022 Captains And Stewards

In their final year, pupils in Junior 6 take on leadership responsibilities at the school. In a special assembly, recorded for parents, the new Captains and Stewards were presented with their badges 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**  
Aaron Anderson



**Head Girl**  
Lily Bryson



**Deputy Head Boy**  
George Wilcox



**Deputy Head Girl**  
Olivia Burley



**RE Captain**  
Agnes Crinion



**Girls' Games Captain**  
Elle Weir



**Vice - Girls' Games Captain**  
Issey Cleary



**Boys' Games Captain**  
George Moreton



**Vice - Boys' Games Captain**  
Dexter Robinson



**Music Captain**  
Holly Lloyd-Evans



**Performing Arts Captain**  
Elsie Roots



**Library Captain**  
Stephanie Perkins



**House Captain - Jupiter**  
Dillon Horan



**Vice - House Captain - Jupiter**  
Jasmine Staveley



**House Captain - Mars**  
Harry Gibson



**Vice - House Captain - Mars**  
Oliver Moore



**House Captain - Saturn**  
Summer Fletcher



**Vice - House Captain - Saturn**  
Jack Phillips-Gore



**House Captain - Venus**  
Grace Johnson



**Vice - House Captain - Venus**  
Penelope O'Neill



**Student Councillor**  
Merryn Cleary



**Student Councillor**  
Alfred Cowell



**Student Councillor**  
Alexander Ainsworth



**Student Councillor**  
Elsie Glover



**Student Councillor**  
Harry Faulconbridge



# Junior 6



Junior 6H



Junior 6V



## Science Classification

Junior 6 started their Year 6 Science journey by developing their understanding of animal classification. They considered how animals are grouped and what characteristics they have. Then practised grouping different objects using their own classification systems, including classroom items and even liquorice allsorts.



## Victorian Schools

Pupils had particular fun learning about what school was like in Victorian times. They researched what the classrooms were like in the late 1800s, what subjects pupils studied back then, what the punishments were like for poor behaviour and what equipment children would have used. They decided they were quite happy going to school today!



## Choices

Junior 6 considered the choices we make. They began by reading the story of the *Fall in RE* and thought about how Eve knew the rules but made a choice that broke the rules. They considered all the choices they make and thought about how every decision, whether good or bad, has a consequence and how we must give thought to the choices we make and accept responsibility for our own decisions.



## House Sport

Junior 6 had a competitive start to the year enjoying plenty of House sport. The Junior 6 boys competed in House Rugby, while the Junior 6 girls battled it out on the new AstroTurf in House Hockey. Jupiter ended up triumphant in both hotly contested tournaments. Pupils then took part in a mixed touch rugby tournament and that led into an equally competitive football match! Everyone relished the opportunity to try different sports.



## Matisse

In Art the classes researched the artist Matisse. They discovered how French 'Fauvist' Henri Matisse found that getting older, and losing his ability to walk and see well, impacted on his painting and drawing. They explored his later works and appreciated how Matisse became even more popular when he started using bold colour and strong shapes.



## African Inspired Art

Junior 6 investigated how African art is often inspired by the wildlife found on the continent. They discovered that the lion has been celebrated as a symbol of strength since the dawn of time and remains a popular subject for wildlife art today. Pupils produced stunning oil pastels and we were so impressed with their work that it went on display in the school's main entrance hall.





### Exam Preparation

In early November it was all about final entrance exam preparations. Pupils worked extremely hard focusing on managing their time in exam style tasks and sustaining their focus for long periods of time. They practised reading comprehensions and lots of descriptive writing, as well as lots of different maths problems. They were more than ready to show how good they were in their entrance examinations.



### Dissection Skills

Junior 6 became experts in all things heart related when they dissected lamb hearts and explored the structure of the heart. They also had the opportunity to observe an eyeball dissection and learn about the optic nerve, the retina and the lens!



### Bake Off

Post exams, Junior 6 enjoyed a week of curriculum enrichment activities. That included the annual 'bake off' competition where all their super creative skills were on show. Cakes were decorated in fabulous styles, ranging from volcanoes and football pitches, to a Minion, tractor and even the Titanic. The attention to detail and ingenuity were incredible.

This year's winners were 1st Alex and Henry, 2nd Mya and 3rd Alfred and Aaron. Honourable mentions went to Holly and Ellie, Dillon and Summer and Willow. Well done to everyone who took part!



### Board Games

Pupils enjoyed board games as part of their enrichment programme. Educational board games are a great way to develop Maths, Science and reasoning skills. Games also engage students with different learning styles and inspire individual creativity. They are also lots of fun.



### Forest School

Junior 6 explored Windmill Wood and had fun building dens and working outside in teams during their Forest School sessions. Forest school encourages children to learn new skills in a setting where they are free to problem-solve and think of new ideas. Its play-based approach builds confidence which pays dividends in academic performance – and also improves pupils' mental well-being.



### Traditions

Pupils had fun in their French lessons finding out about different Christmas traditions from around the world. They learned what people in different countries might have on the dinner table at Christmas time and how to say them all in French! They shared what their favourite Christmas food is and tried not to argue about whose choice was the best!



### Gas Masks

Following two years of worldwide mask wearing Junior 6 investigated 'Gas Masks' with Ms Holmes. It proved a fascinating look into how easy we have it these days. Junior 6 created a double page sketch book of the types of masks used in World War One. Then Mr Luis, our caretaker, who was in the Falkland Islands during the 1982 war, brought in his own 'chemical warfare' mask and kit to show the students.



### Le Sport

In French the children learned how to give opinions on different sports. Pupils interviewed each other to find out which sports they liked and didn't like. They correctly guessed that the most popular sport in France was 'le foot' and discovered that handball is a popular game in French schools. Allez Junior 6!



# Junior 6



## The Highwayman

Pupils were transported back in time to the 18th Century when they began their study of Alfred Noyes classic narrative poem *The Highwayman*. They explored the different language used in the poem, sequenced events and also wrote their own versions of the story. They were interested to set the poem in context when they researched information about highwaymen in general, as well as 18th Century transport and weapons.



## Sikhism

For One World Week Junior 6 studied Sikhism. They looked at where Sikhism began and learnt about the founder of this religion – Guru Nanak. They then found out about the other human Gurus and the Guru Granth Sahib, the Sikh Holy Book. To complete their studies, they visited the Gurdwara in Leamington Spa and saw their Guru Granth Sahib.



## Shadow Science

The classes linked British Science Week's theme of 'growth' to their topic on light when they explored how shadows grow and shrink depending on where the light source is in relation to the object. They investigated how big they could make their shadows and what they needed to do with the position of the light source to achieve this. They then tried to put together a strategy for shadow tag to see if they could minimise their shadow length to not get caught!



## Titanic

In History, Junior 6 looked at the passengers who were on board the Titanic. They considered the differences between the first, second and third-class passengers and where they were allowed on the ship. They studied the passenger list as a piece of primary evidence and were able to see whether each person survived or not and which lifeboat they got into. It was no surprise that there were more first-class survivors than any other.



## Confucius

Junior 6 visited the Confucius Institute at Coventry University to gain experience of Chinese culture. The children participated in different activities. They tried calligraphy, Chinese dance and Tai Qi. During the calligraphy session, children learned how to hold a calligraphy brush and use ink to form different characters. One of the characters was 中 (zhōng) which means winning a prize or scoring high in exams. In Tai Qi, they learned a sequence of moves and had fun with the traditional Chinese fans, some also had the opportunity to try on outfits.



## Internet Safety

Junior 6 were treated to a visit from Police Constable Lund, who came to talk to the pupils about being safe and kind on the internet. PC Lund expressed the enormity of the negative impact that being unkind to someone has and reminded them that once you've said it (or typed it) it cannot be taken back! He explained that everything a person searched for or looked at, using a device, could be traced back to them. It was an important learning opportunity for the pupils as they prepare for their next phase in life.

*"They were more than ready to show how good they were in their entrance examinations."*

# Junior 5



**Junior 5L**



**Junior 5W**



## Aztec Art

As part of a cross-curricular topic Junior 5 studied Aztec art. The Aztecs had some incredible ways of creating the vibrant colours and used pigments for paintings, murals and to cover sculptures. Every colour was valuable for the Aztecs, but the most important in surviving artefacts was blue-turquoise. Pupils began by designing an Aztec brooch or Aztec headdress using free drawing and including as much detail as possible. Their completed work was vibrant, radiant and full of vivid colour.



## Cosmic

In English lessons, pupils read the brilliant book *Cosmic* by Frank Cottrell-Boyce. It's all about a 12-year-old boy, Liam, and his adventures in space. Junior 5 acted out scenes from the book, drew rockets and wrote text conversations between Liam and his friend.



## Space Science

In the Michaelmas Term, Junior 5 immersed themselves in everything SPACE related!! They 'became' miniature planets, whilst measuring out the distance of each planet from the sun and the Earth when demonstrating how the Earth spins on its own axis, while rotating around the sun. One of their highlights was when they joined the UK Space Academy for a live session about satellites!



## The Tempest

Junior 5 were immersed in *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare at the start of the school year and enjoyed bringing the fabulous cast of characters to life! After discussing the traits and personalities they arranged themselves into groups and chose one to become and then created a 'family' portrait style photograph.



## Space Projects

Over half term Junior 5 pupils kept themselves busy designing and creating a planets project. Our Space investigators clearly worked their socks off to make their displays; they were stunning.



## One Kind Word

Junior 5 had plenty of opportunities to demonstrate their kindness as part of Anti-Bullying Week. The children were delighted to receive One Kind Word packs which were written by each member of the class to each other. It became very clear how powerful one kind word or one act of kindness can be.



# Junior 5



## Primary Maths Challenge

We had some amazing mathematicians in Junior 5, one of whom was awarded a Gold certificate in the Primary Maths Challenge in November, a fantastic achievement! Everyone did well with lots of great top scorers. All Junior 5s complete a three-minute maths challenge each lesson and the improvement across the whole year group week by week was impressive to see.



## Charity Studies

Junior 5 discovered a lot of fascinating information about charities in their PSHECE studies. The children researched a charity of their choosing, some very close to their hearts, and presented their information to the class. Charities included the PDSA, the RNLI, The British Heart Foundation and the Sea Life Trust.



## Superheroes

We enjoyed Junior 5s extraordinary writing talent and dramatic flair when the pupils wrote about their own personal superheroes. They began by creating their own caped crusaders before drafting their amazing, assessed writing pieces.



## Reverse Advent Calendar

Junior 5 showed just how thoughtful and kind they are when they made their own reverse advent calendars hampers. Each pupil brought in an item a family in need at Christmas might wish to receive and the hampers were donated to LWS Night Shelter in Leamington.



## Resolutions

Junior 5 started the Lent Term thinking about their New Year's resolutions. The children's ideas were plentiful and included: caring for my younger sister more; helping my mum; emptying the dishwasher, and even eating more pistachios! They recorded their commitments and we enjoyed hearing about their progress throughout the year.



## Guided Reading

Junior 5 were given a guided reading book to allow us to trial guided reading sessions in the mornings. All the children were happy with their books and were kept busy reading each night, so they were ready for their next session with their teacher.



## The Tudor Rose

Pupils explored how clever Henry VII was when he united the country after decades of the Wars of the Roses. By marrying Elizabeth of York, Henry, a Lancastrian, merged the two houses into one. They learned that the famous Tudor Rose symbolised this unity by including the white rose of York with the red rose of Lancaster.



## Flanimals

In English, the children enjoyed dreaming up, designing and writing about their own Flanimals (fantastical and ridiculous made-up creatures!) Using their curious critters and a glossary of their own made-up words, Junior 5 went on to inspire us by writing up a non-chronological report where they told us all about where we might find their imaginary animals and what they eat for their dinner.



## West Side Story

During their music lessons, pupils explored two of the famous songs from Leonard Bernstein's musical *West Side Story*, the yearning ballad, *Somewhere*, and the catchy and striking *Mambo!* The agitation felt between the rival gangs was explored by using syncopation across a wide range of percussion instruments, culminating in a lively Latin American dance routine fit for any musical theatre show!





### Life Cycles

The children celebrated the weird and wonderful when they looked at the life cycles of a series of non-conforming critters such as the kangaroo or dung beetles! First the children set out to research their animals, paying close attention to any surprising differences such as how the platypus (a mammal) lays eggs! They then went on draw and annotate diagrams telling us in detail about how these peculiar animals develop and any other fascinating facts of note.



### One World Week

Junior 5 were lucky enough to visit Birmingham Central Mosque as part of One World Week. There, they were greeted by their guide, Nasreen, who showed them the features of the outside of the mosque, including the dome and the minarets. Once inside, they spent time learning about the Islamic way of life: their beliefs, prayers, festivals and traditions. The children even got to see a copy of the Qur'an, the holy book of Islam, which guides Muslims on how to live their lives.



### Friction

Junior 5 explored the effects of air resistance, a type of friction that occurs between air and another object. Air resistance and gravity are the two fixed forces of nature which move on any object lifted from the earth and moved through the air. To investigate, pupils noted the resistance they could feel when running with a piece of paper stretched out in front of them.



### Tudor Day

Junior 5 became terrific Tudors when they immersed themselves fully in a fun-packed, fantastic experience day. Sir Patrick, the Tudor Leader, invited the children into his Great Hall. He set them to work in Tudor trades that ranged from candle and soap making to leatherwork, apothecary and even barbers. During the afternoon, the Great Hall became a banquet with entertainment from the children performing in groups. We had dancers, jesters, and singers. Wonderful hands-on learning for them all.



### Friend Like Me

Junior 5 channelled their inner genies in Music and Drama when they practised how to loosen up, throw away their inhibitions and dance like there's no-one watching. Cartwheels, somersaults, springs, stag leaps, break dancing and body-popping were all explored in our attempts to bring life and energy to our rehearsals for Aladdin's *Friend Like Me* song.



### Keyboard Warriors

The children took on a touch-typing challenge in their Computing lessons. Working on the 'Ed-club' website pupils completed different exercises learning not to look at their hands whilst typing, enabling them to become more fluent in this essential life skill.



### Pop Stars

Junior 5 studied music in French learning the names of different instruments. They enjoyed sharing which instruments they play, getting to grips with verb endings, listening to different types of music and giving their opinions on many songs. In fact, there was no holding back with sharing their opinions. The timing of the Eurovision Song Contest was perfect – as the children listened to several entries and gave their scores. They even dressed up as pop stars!



### World Knowledge

Pupils explored their knowledge of the world and discovered how much more accurate our knowledge is when we use a globe rather than a flat map. They were fascinated to find out places that were the antipodes of any place on earth and then checked their observations using geographical coordinates.



### Grid References

In Geography pupils enjoyed learning about four and six-figure grid references, and how to use these to find features on a map. They moved onto compass directions and designed their own maps, then wrote a set of directions and swapped these with a partner to see if they could navigate around our map.



# Junior 4



**Junior 4R**



**Junior 4S**



## Positive Poems

Year 4 were positive and enthusiastic when they returned to school in September. They wrote fabulous poems about themselves using a range of powerful adjectives and sentence types.



## Swimming

Swimming lessons resumed and you can see from their smiles that Junior 4 were delighted to board the minibus for the short trip to the local pool and the opportunity to improve their strokes!



## String Telephones

There was lots of excitement when Junior 4 made and tested string telephones. The children were investigating 'Sound' and how sound vibrations travel through materials. In pairs, Junior 4 made their phones and then went outside and tested them. They were really impressed to learn that the sound waves/vibrations travel along the string and into each other's ears.



## Bedroom Designs

Combining Design Technology and English pupils designed and then wrote a description of their dream bedrooms. We had some beautiful designs and some amazing descriptive language!



## Pitch And Pan Pipes

The children explored the concept of 'pitch'. They all made and beautifully decorated their very own musical instruments - straw panpipes - to demonstrate that pitch can vary. They discovered that their longest straws created the lowest pitch and the shorter ones, the higher pitch.



## Instrument Homework

The children produced a super range of homemade instruments when Junior 4 continued their learning about their Science topic 'sound'. The class enjoyed hearing the twangs, thwacks and taps of our amazing homemade orchestra.



## Tea Tasters

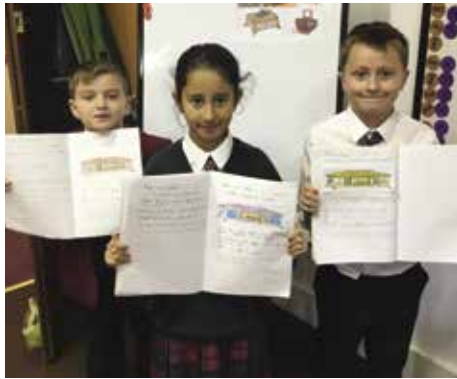
Junior 4 pupils had an extra exciting week tickling their taste buds while developing their literacy skills in their Science and Art lessons. Concluding their work on their class book *The Cloud Tea Monkeys* everyone really enjoyed picking leaves and making their own tea in Science and then tasting different herbal teas to help 'infuse' them with wow words in English! Their teachers then set them the task of making a box for their own tea and writing slogans, rhetorical questions and persuasive language to describe the tea. Using examples from a range of tea boxes they were able to extend their vocabulary by magpi-ing descriptive phrases from the professional tea makers.



## Remembrance

Pupils made many wonderful creative contributions to the school's poppy display in November and were honoured to welcome caretaker, Mr Luis, into class to hear about his service with the RAF.





### Fit For A Queen

We were amazed by pupils' creativity in English when the children worked hard to describe a jewellery box fit for a Queen. Junior 4 doubled their adjectives, alliterated their words and used ambitious vocabulary like intricate, glistening and elegantly, to help describe their box.



### Descriptive Stories

Junior 4 drafted and edited story openers using description, action and dialogue to produce wonderful pieces of creative writing linked to their class novel, *The Girl Who Stole An Elephant*. They used an array of ambitious and figurative language, at the centre of an exciting adventure story.



### French Introductions

Junior 4 studied how to introduce themselves, giving their names and ages, and greeting people appropriately at different times of the day. They practised by reading and putting together a jigsaw puzzle matching the French and English sentences. Excellents enfants!



### Newspaper Reports

Junior 4 enjoyed looking at newspapers in their English lessons reading a variety of articles and identifying their key features. They went on to plan and create their very own interesting newspaper reports.



### Ice Cube

In Science, the children were excited about their ice cube experiment, and it was wonderful to see such ingenuity when creating containers to try and sustain their ice for as long as possible.



### States Of Matter

Pupils studied 'States of Matter' in Science excitedly predicting which type of chocolate would melt the fastest - white, milk, or dark. They looked at all the variables and after planning a fair test, finally got to do the scrumptious testing!



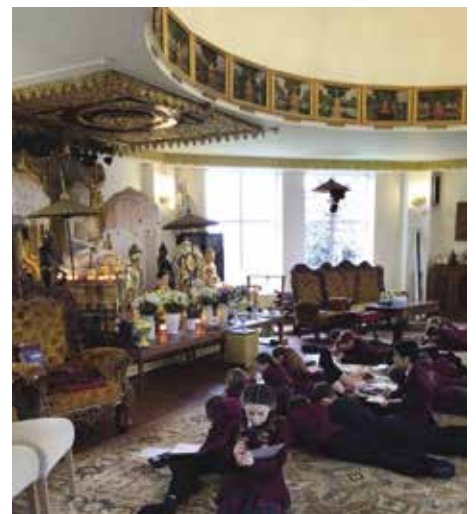
### Mindfulness

Junior 4 were creative for Mental Health Week. They enjoyed making positive affirmation fortune tellers, and patiently colouring in mindfulness patterns, whilst listening to the teaching staff reading their class novel aloud.



### Creative Clocks

In the spring term the children finalised their magnificent clocks that they had been creating in Art and it was wonderful to see such an array of creative ideas.

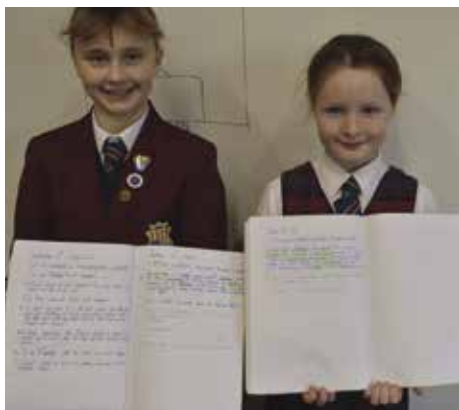


### Buddhism

Junior 4 loved learning about Buddhism as part of One World Week. Their trip to a Buddhist Temple was the icing on the cake, and there in addition to learning more about Buddhism they also learned how to meditate.



# Junior 4



## Ambitious Vocabulary

In the Lent Term Junior 4 studied the ancient story of *Beowulf*. After being introduced to the story, the children started to write about the fearsome beast. Using ambitious vocabulary and varied sentence openers, they wrote wonderful character descriptions, using words like sinister and barbaric. We were all so impressed with their creative writing.



## Big Feet

British Science Week brought much excitement and a wonderful week investigating the theme 'Growth'. Junior 4 explored whether pupils with the longest feet, jump the furthest. There was lots of theorising, inquiry, measuring, jumping and the plotting of results on graphs.



## Sunflower Seeds

Our green fingered Junior 4s planted and tended sunflower seeds and were delighted when they burst into life. After a few weeks of care on the classroom windowsill they ventured outside to plant their sunflowers. Their prayers for sunshine were certainly answered and their sunflowers grew tall.



## Music Technology

Pupils enjoyed a music technology workshop at Princethorpe College where the children were introduced to computer music production concepts such as sequencing and arrangement and then encouraged to experiment. Using the technology software Soundtrap, the children enjoyed creating music in a completely new way.



## Trees

Junior 4 explored the wonder of trees visiting Forest School to immerse themselves in the company of trees. The children then worked hard to combine their excellent personification phrases, super similes and exciting adjectives, to create a free-verse poem. They wrote one of their verses on a leaf template, which was then used to create a lovely class display.



## Master Of Metaphor

Junior 4 were lucky enough to join Dom Conlon, a master of metaphor on a live Teams link. Dom read from his latest book, *Grow, Tree, Grow* and listened to the pupils' reactions on the language techniques in his book, *Blow, Wind, Blow*. It was superb to see the children interact with the author, sharing their favourite lines and finding out where Dom receives his inspiration.



## The Big Build

Everyone loved the Science topic, 'The Big Build'. The children identified a variety of famous bridges from across the world and enthusiastically researched about the differing bridge structures. Pupils then designed and built their very own bridges – as strong as they could possibly be, producing diverse and skilful structures. The class used weights to see how strong their bridges were with some of them even strong enough to hold their creator.



# Junior 3



**Junior 3H**



**Junior 3V**



## Growth Mindset

At the start of the year, Junior 3 loved reading the story *The Dot* about a little girl who does not believe she can draw...yet. This prompted us to think about things that we cannot do yet, and helped us to have a growth mindset so we always try our best to improve. We even drew our own pictures, starting with just a dot and wrote a 5-finger story to go with them.



## Chapter Books

Reading practice is the key to success in Junior 3 so it was great to see lots of chapter books flying off the shelves at the start of the year. From *The Boy who Grew Dragons* to *The Worst Witch Saves the Day*, it's so wonderful watching the children progress and flourish as they develop and reinforce their reading skills.



## The Tiny Seed

During Black History Month Junior 3 studied Wangari Mathaai. They read the story of *The Tiny Seed* and discussed how one small act of kindness and compassion can grow, like a tiny seed, into a movement that changes the world. They thought about all the attributes that Wangari had that made her successful, happy and a wonderful role-model to us all.



## Place Value

The children enjoyed delving into 'maths manipulative' resources, like Base Ten and place value counters to help and support their understanding of place value to 1,000!



## Stone Age Settings

The children enjoyed exploring the story settings of *Stone Age Boy*. They headed out into the Forest School and got their creative 'thinking hats' on, brainstorming vocabulary linked to the sights, sounds and smells that would have made up a stone age camp. Back inside they explored Stone Age food. All the small details they noticed gave them wonderful ideas for their writing.



## Maasai Art

The children enjoyed looking at, and discussing, the colourful work of Sarah Shiundu, whose paintings of the Maasai women at everyday tasks inspired them to try their hands at sponge painting landscapes and Brusho techniques, they created wonderful tall thin shapes of the Maasai women at work and play.



# Junior 3



## Dictionary Skills

The children put their alphabetical skills to good use when they learned how to navigate a dictionary to search for the meaning of some adventurous new vocabulary.



## Multiplication Arrays

Junior 3 worked incredibly hard, developing new skills in Maths – they repeated addition work and used arrays to consolidate their skills as they move through the syllabus. Mahnoor even managed to bring in some birthday mini-cakes arranged as an array. Maths has never been so delicious!



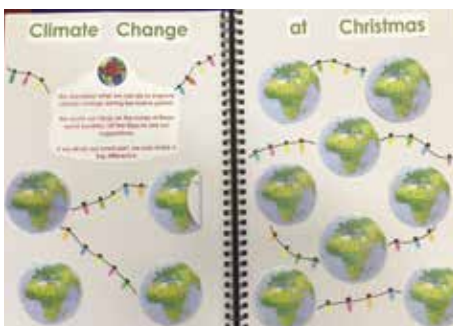
## Papier Mache Percussion

The children found out about the materials used and the sounds made by the different percussion instruments and then in Design Technology they began to make their own. They created the basic design and began to build their instruments using 'papier-mache' techniques.



## Forces

In Science, Junior 3 found out all about forces and investigated which surfaces cars travel the furthest on. This was a popular investigation for the Lamborghini lovers!



## Climate Friendly Christmas

In PSHECE Junior 3 considered Climate Change and particularly about how we could have a climate friendly Christmas. They each wrote an idea about how to help our precious planet onto a 'globe bauble' and threaded their ideas together with some solar powered fairy lights.



## Great Nappy Challenge

In Science the children took on 'The Great Nappy Challenge'; in which they tested and evaluated disposable nappies. They investigated which nappies were the most absorbent, which were the stretchiest and which were the most popular with parents. They learned how to plan a fair test and spent a long time discussing the variables that might affect their investigations.



## Synonyms For Said

Junior 3 dug deep when they thought about synonyms for 'said'. Pupils came up with 'declared', 'argued', 'answered', 'murmured' and even 'bellowed' to name but a few. We were seriously impressed!



## Clay Cartouches

In Art, Junior 3H made Egyptian cartouches, a symbolic naming-plaque for a Pharaoh, in soft clay. The pupils loved learning about how the clay can be manipulated, cut and carved to create symbols and hieroglyphs. We are sure you will agree that their beautiful cartouches were stunning.



## Division Skills

Junior 3 worked hard to perfect their division skills. They looked at many ways to divide 2-digit numbers, including partitioning and numbers that involve a place value exchange. They used place value counters to support their conceptual understanding, before moving onto more formal written methods.





### Bonne Anniversaire

In French, Junior 3 learned how to talk about birthdays. The children showcased some impressive acting abilities in their celebrity interview role plays! Bravo Junior 3.



### Mummification

Junior 3 immersed themselves in the Ancient Egyptian process of mummification. After learning all the elaborate steps involved they worked collaboratively to mummify a tomato. It was a messy and fairly gruesome process. Then they turned their attention to learning how a mummy was covered in Mummia resin, wrapped in bandages, decorated with amulets and placed into a sarcophagus. One lucky pupil got to experience first-hand the final stages of being an Egyptain Pharaoh.



### Rocks And Soils

Junior 3 started their topic on 'Rocks and Soils' by sorting and comparing a wide range of different rocks. Their favourites were definitely the smooth, shiny and expensive kind although the bubble basalt with all its tiny bubbly holes did fascinate them. Then the super scientists of Junior 3 investigated the properties of different rocks in more detail by establishing which rocks were permeable and which were impermeable. There was much delight at getting to use a pipette for the first time... and only a few spills!



### Measuring In Maths

Junior 3 got to grips with 'Measuring' in Maths. They learned how to convert millimetres, centimetres and metres which took a lot of mental strength, with children using rulers and metre-sticks to aid their learning.



### Little Lighthouses

Alongside all sorts of Cornish cornucopia, the children created little 3D lighthouses which were just fantastic. They used shells, sand and grit to create a textured, rocky surface before turning their beautiful creations into super night-lights.



### Flower Dissection

As part of their new Science topic on plants, Junior 3 scientists undertook a very delicate procedure in their Science lesson – a flower dissection. Goggles on, to prevent any pollen getting in our eyes, they carefully peeled back the layers of daffodils and tulips to reveal so many different parts to a flower. They were amazed to find out that there is so much more to them than just petals.



### Greek Vases

The children enjoyed painting their own Greek vases and finding out about repeating patterns from ancient history.



### Kandinsky

Junior 3 explored the work of Wassily Kandinsky, the Russian abstract artist, who loved Art, Maths, and Music, and used his love of these subjects to create wonderful pictures. The pupils had a great time finding out about and creating 'angle and line' pictures, using the terms right angle, obtuse, acute and reflex. They loved the use of coloured shapes cut into geometrical patterns. What an inspiration!



### DT Stitch

Junior 3H were racing against the clock with flair and style as they tried to complete their Design and Technology topic of fabric pencil cases. They learned running stitch, over stitch, cross stitch, and a variety of stitches which Ms Holmes has never seen before! Patience was at a premium as they threaded and rethreaded and rethreaded again.



# Junior 2



**Junior 2B**



**Junior 2G**



## Vicious Villains

Junior 2 explored character attributes, particularly those of villains. They read the incredible book *Inside the Villains* by Clotilde Perrin, the pages of the pop-up book revealed the secrets of giants, wolves and witches. The illustrations and flaps allowed the children to get right inside each villain and see what was hidden - behind their ears, in their pockets, even the victim of their last meal! The children then created their own villains and personality cards and planned their story considering what their dilemma and resolution would be.



## Materials Monster

In Science, the children explored many different materials and even fed them to the materials monster! He loved finding out about materials and particularly likes to eat plastic bottles. Then they used play dough to create different objects and described them using the vocabulary learned in their Materials topic. The topic culminated in the children designing and making their own materials monsters which were all very unique.



## Creating Castles

The children immersed themselves in their 'Castles' topic and we were thrilled with their artwork. They really enjoyed using different mediums to create their castle pictures. How amazing do they look. They became experts at naming the different parts of a castle, different types of castles, explaining why castles were built the way they were and who introduced castles into Britain.



## Friendship

Junior 2 reflected on the concept of friendship in class. They talked about what makes a good friend and how they can help each other. Everyone joined their own paper loop onto a friendship chain to display in class, to show how we can all work together. Junior 2 agreed that kindness can be more difficult if it is someone you aren't friends with, so we reflected on what we could all do to show kindness to people we don't know. Everyone agreed that a smile and a thank you would be a wonderful way to make someone's day!



## Number Bonds

Pupils practised their number bonds to 100, as well as working out how to add two numbers together by adding to ten first. The classrooms was alive with children experimenting in different ways, using the tens counters, Base Ten equipment and Numicon resources. It was wonderful to see the pupils' confidence grow as they worked out different Maths problems, especially when working in pairs.



## Forest Fun

At the end of the first half term Junior 2 spent an enjoyable afternoon in Crackley's Windmill Wood. They were given the option to make an autumn loom, create a hedgehog home to help with hibernation, make an autumn crown or create some leaf art on the ground. They read two beautiful books, *We're Going On A Leaf Hunt* and *The Very Helpful Hedgehog*, to inspire the children in their independent activities. As ever, the muddy kitchen was very popular, and the children treated the teachers to some wonderful baked goods before they all enjoyed hot chocolate.





### Local Area Projects

As an introduction to their Geography topic, the children were set the task of researching their local area and creating a presentation for their class. We were so impressed with their work and took great pleasure in awarding many da Vincis.



### Addition And Subtraction

Junior 2 worked hard on adding and subtracting two-digit numbers with exchanging. Can you believe that they were doing column addition and subtraction in Year 2! This involved lots of concrete work with equipment so that they understood why we need to exchange ones for tens.



### Remembrance Poppies

In November the children learned about the importance of Remembrance Sunday discovering why the poppy is so significant and why it is still important today.



### Dragons' Eggs

There was much excitement when Junior 2 discovered dragons' eggs! The children received a letter from Professor Hanan al-Hroub from Warwick University. She was conducting a very important experiment but the eggs had disappeared! Thankfully, we found them and kept them safe. They wrote some amazing dragon poems and created dragon world landscapes to help ignite their imaginations for their English lessons.



### Warwick Castle

Junior 2 left no stone unturned when they explored the medieval fortress Warwick Castle. They enjoyed a trip to see the super stronghold, they walked under the portcullis entrance before visiting the Great Hall where they saw a knight in armour with his horse, along with a jaw dropping display of swords and spears. In the Time Tower, Junior 2 learnt all about the history of the castle through spellbinding story clips which walked them through the ages.



### The Magic Paintbrush

In January, the children delved into Julia Donaldson's book *The Magic Paintbrush* in English. The children created some brilliant story maps that demonstrated their understanding of the events in the book.



### Talented Musicians

Junior 2 had so many talented musicians and the class enjoyed listening to their friends play over the course of the year. Of course, everyone had the chance to make and enjoy music in their lessons in school, there are just so many ways to enjoy music at Crackley Hall.



### PSHE Rules

In PSHE we discussed why we have rules at school, home and in our communities. We read a story that explored what would happen if we did not have rules and there were lots of lightbulb moments as to why we do need rules. The children made up their own rules for a game and had great fun playing them.



### China Studies

In the Lent Term Junior 2 studied China. Their topic linked to their subjects across the curriculum. They began by exploring the continent and pupils had a fabulous time making books all about China as they immersed themselves in the culture and lands of the Far East.

Then they used their senses to experience different Chinese food during their Science lessons. They loved all of the different smells and tastes and after their taste experiments carefully recorded their findings.



# Junior 2



## Subordination

In English, the children focused on using subordination in their sentences remembering to use full stops and capital letters. They went on to impress us by writing their own version of *The Magic Paintbrush*.



## Bread Tasting

Pupils had great fun smelling, tasting and discussing an amazing range of breads from around the world. They were fascinated by where they came from and why they were so different. Maths and Science went hand in hand when they transferred information about their favourite breads into tally charts and pictograms.



## Marshmallow Shapes

The children had great fun in their Maths lessons, making 2D and 3D shapes out of mini marshmallows and cocktail sticks. It really helped to consolidate the names of shapes and the language around them.



## One World Week

Junior 2 had an exciting time celebrating One World Week. At the beginning of the week, they learnt about the history of Temple Balsall with the Knights Crusaders. Then later in the week they visited St Mary's and everyone loved meeting Reverend Kathy, who was a wonderful host who showed them all around the church.



## Eggciting Helmets

Junior 2 had a very egg-citing time when they created some egg-cellent cycle helmets for eggs. They thought about what would make an effective helmet and had great fun testing out our designs – there are definitely some budding designers and scientists among them!



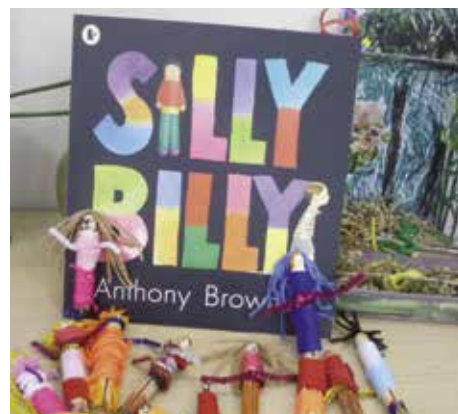
## Fruit Salad Science

In Science, Junior 2 discussed their favourite snacks and what alternative healthy snacks they could have. In their lessons they all made a fruit kebab and thoroughly enjoyed eating this healthy snack.



## Botanical Gardens

Junior 2 enjoyed an amazing trip to the Botanical Gardens in Birmingham where they were treated to a workshop in the rainforest with live animals! They had clearly retained a lot of their classroom learning and wowed the presenter with their knowledge. They went on to finish their Geography topic on Rainforests by thinking about how they can be protected.



## Silly Billy

The Junior 2 children read a story called *Silly Billy*. Billy's a bit of a worrier. He worries about many things, but one night Billy stays at his grandma's and she has the ideal solution – a set of worry dolls who will do Billy's worrying for him. Junior 2 enjoyed the story and then made their very own worry dolls, to help them if they have any worries.



## Mini Movie Makers

The children had a wonderful day learning how to take photos and videos of their friends and how to make these into movies. Their editing skills progressed so much, and it was great to see them make videos celebrating their time in Year 2.



# Junior 1



**Junior 1**



## Art Inspiration

Alma Thomas was the inspiration for Junior 1's artwork. She was the first African-American woman to hold a solo exhibition at the Whitney Museum of American Art. She loved to use bright colours, so we did the same and created our artwork using paints and corks to stamp with.



## Science Skeleton

Science was most exciting for Junior 1 when they explored their bodies and what is inside them. Everyone had the chance to create a picture to show what our skeletons look like and they were put on display in the classroom.



## Smelly Science

Junior 1 explored their senses and in particular using their noses to smell. There were lots of different things to smell and the children had to decide which they liked and which they did not. The strawberry flavouring was a favourite, the vinegar was not!



## Mapping Our Local Area

In Geography pupils went for a walk around their local area, looking for landmarks to help them recognise where they were. It was a lot of fun to be out in the sunshine and to then come back in and put the features they saw in the right places on a map of the area.



## Left And Right

Junior 1 used their hands to learn which is left and which is right. They found out that our left hand makes the capital 'L' to help us remember. They used this technique in Geography to find their way round a treasure map and follow directions.



## Three Little Pigs

English lessons gave pupils the opportunity to create finger puppets of *The Three Little Pigs* that they used with their straw, stick and brick houses created in Design and Technology. They had a lot of fun acting out the story using their new props and then writing to the wolf to tell him to leave the pigs alone!



## Traffic Survey

Junior 1 went out and about to complete a traffic survey in their Geography lesson to see what type of vehicles travel along the Coventry Road while they are busy working in their classes. They had to be quick to record the number of each type of vehicle as they were very fast! Back in class pupils plotted the information they gathered onto a chart.



# Junior 1



## Remembrance

There were some wonderful poppies made for Remembrance Day, some in our Art lessons and some very creative ones were made at home. The class took time to think about why we wear poppies and the significance of them and observed the two-minute silence on Remembrance Day.



## Odd Socks Day

Junior 1 celebrated Odd Socks Day as part of the national Anti-Bullying Week. They took time to think of how to be kind to each other and took turns saying a kind thing about their friends.



## Paul Klee

Junior 1 studied the artist Paul Klee and worked very carefully to develop their drawing, colouring and painting skills to create a number of pieces of artwork inspired by him, their pieces were so good that they were put on display in the Art Room!



## Christingles

In RE the children learnt that Christingles are used in some Christian churches during the time of Advent. Each part of a Christingle represents something special for this time of year. The candle represents Jesus being the light of the world, bringing Hope. The orange represents the world. The red ribbon represents God's love for the world and the blood of Jesus. The sweets and dried fruit represent God's creations in the four seasons.



## Drawing Skills

By following step-by-step instructions to draw a wintery scene, which coincided with it snowing outside, everyone learnt some new skills and became better at drawing in proportion. They developed their skills, by adding in some colour-mixing with paint.



## Antarctic

Junior 1 explored the Antarctic in Science, beginning to find out about polar regions in the world and what life is like there. They discovered that only penguins and seals live on Antarctica and learnt a lot of interesting facts about penguins, which they recorded and displayed on a 'Polar Places' display.



## VR Vikings

In History Junior 1 used the VR headsets so everyone had the opportunity to see what a Viking longship looked like, it was fascinating to explore the longship in 3D before they started to make a model of one. The children worked hard and were careful to ensure that their models of a Viking Longboat had a large sail and some shields on the side for protection



## Insulators

Junior 1 investigated insulation testing to see which material would keep them the warmest for the longest. They tested cotton wool, cotton material, wool, fleece and bubble wrap. They found out that the best material to keep them warm was the fleece, or cotton wool, but they thought cotton wool might not be the best to make clothes out of!



## Mrs Armitage On Wheels

*Mrs Armitage On Wheels* became a firm favourite with Junior 1, they all learned to retell the story with actions and used a story map to help keep track of where they were. They used onomatopoeia to bring the story to life. Then used everything they had learnt to help write out the story in their own words creating a wonderful mini booklet of the story, with brightly coloured pictures to match.





### Transport Museum

A trip to Coventry's Transport Museum was a highlight for Junior 1. They enjoyed a workshop learning about the history of bicycles. Then had the opportunity to explore the museum to find out about how types of transport have changed over time. It was interesting to see the early cars and bicycles and compare them to what we use now.



### One World Week

Junior 1 went on a trip to St. Mary's Church in Warwick for One World Week. It was fascinating with its old stained-glass windows, paintings, inscriptions and crypt underneath the church. Back in class in their English lessons, pupils were able to explain the reason for stained-glass windows. Fantastic listening and learning.



### Scotland

In Geography Junior 1 had a taste of Scotland. The children tried some Irn Bru and shortbread. The shortbread was very popular but the Irn Bru had a mixed response! It was an engaging way to start our learning about the country.



### Scale Weights

In Maths the scales came out as we learnt how to weigh and compare the weights of different objects. The children used the balance scales to help them see clearly if one object was heavier, lighter or the same as another one, and then recorded their results clearly in their books.



### Capacity And Volume

Following on from using scales to weigh objects and compare weights, Junior 1 then looked at capacity and volume. This involved using water to help find out how big some containers were and how some containers have the same capacity but look very different to each other.



### One Minute

In Maths pupils looked at time. Not only telling the time to o'clock and half past on an analogue clock, but also how long a minute lasts. They were challenged to see what they could do in one minute, like how many times they could write their name, or do star jumps, or write numbers etc... with some funny results!



### Family Trees

In History pupils have looked at their own families and Junior 1 were challenged to make a family tree, some wonderfully colourful creations were brought into school ready to be put on display.



### Football Games

Junior 1 were very busy in Design and Technology when they made their own football games from a box, pegs, sticks and a ping pong ball!! This linked in nicely with their History topic where they had found out about toys from the past, including toys from the 50s, 60s and 70s.



### MAD Museum

Junior 1 enjoyed a day trip out to the MAD museum in Stratford, where there are so many different pieces of artwork that move and are interactive. They found that time really did fly by when they were having fun trying out each activity.



# Reception



**Reception A**



**Reception M**



## First Days

The Reception classes had a wonderful start to their time at Crackley Hall. It began with an exciting first day at school, arriving resplendent in their smart uniform. They enjoyed exploring their classrooms, went for an adventurous walk in the woodland, read books and so much more. At the end of their first half term we took pictures of both classes.



## First Lessons

Reception had a jam-packed first few weeks with lots of new and exciting lessons. They really enjoyed PE with Mrs Thomas, Music with Mrs Olden and their first Forest School lessons with Mrs Clark. Much fun was had playing in Crackley's very own forest, swinging and sliding through the trees – it made for a super start to their Woodland topic!



## Owl Babies

Reception thoroughly enjoyed learning and reciting a lovely poem about an owl. They made some terrific owl headbands which they wore for their performance at the end of the week. After reading *Owl Babies* they thought carefully about the feelings of the baby owls and were glad that their mummy returned at the end of the story!



## Usain Bolt

For Black History Month Reception learned about the famous athlete, Usain Bolt. They watched him win his races on screen and then enjoyed creating their own victory poses outside on the lawn.



## Know-It-'Owls'

Reception enjoyed some extra special flying visitors when Dave Sharpe from RaptorXotics brought his Owls into school. Dave brought in three different species of owls including a white-faced owl, a spotted owl and a barn owl as well as a hawk to help the classes understand how the different birds of prey hunt. The children learnt so much about owls, such as where they live, what they eat and how they hunt for their food at night-time. It was such an amazing experience, a fantastic way to finish their first half term of learning.



## Diwali Celebration

Reception celebrated Diwali by inviting Mrs Verma to come and talk to them about this important festival. Everyone enjoyed tasting lots of different traditional Indian food – it was delicious! 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.





## Remembrance Day

Reception learnt that people wear poppies as a reminder of soldiers, sailors, and airmen, amongst others, who gave their lives to help us live in a more peaceful world. Mr Luis, the Caretaker here at Crackley Hall, visited them and explained his important work in the services.



## Number Work

In Maths in November, the children explored the numbers 4 and 5. They found so many different ways to make them! Then using lots of manipulatives, they explored one more and one less and thoroughly enjoyed building Lego staircases to understand this concept.



## Christmas Post

There was much excitement when Mr Duigan delivered a parcel containing two elves.

They had arrived down the chimney in his office having been sent to Reception by Father Christmas. Not only that, Mrs Claus had sent some delicious cookies too, all the way from the North Pole. Reception got busy making Christmas themed crafts, voting on elf names and learning about Christmas traditions around the world.



## The Selfish Crocodile

Reception read the story *The Selfish Crocodile* by Faustin Charles. They pretended to be the crocodile/animals in the story and explored their feelings by asking and answering some very thought-provoking, self-generated questions. With help they mapped the story to aid their understanding.



## Measuring Skills

Reception developed their measuring skills by making their own play dough. It worked so well that they were able to use their play dough to create their own jungle animals.



## Chinese New Year

The children learned all about Chinese New Year! They read the Chinese zodiac story about the animal race and wrote about the animals. They then used the VR Headsets to look at how people in China celebrate the New Year and enjoyed creating their own Chinese dragons.



## What The Ladybird Heard

The children learned to name and match baby animals to their adults and found out about where the animals live. They listened to the story called *What The Ladybird Heard* and had a go at creating their own farm maps linked to the story.



## Trip To The Farm

Reception went on an exciting trip to Attwell Farm Park. The children were amazing, asking lots of questions, being so polite and showing their caring nature to the animals. They fed alpacas, held a new-born lamb and cuddled some very fluffy rabbits! The children loved finding out about the animals on the farm and how they are looked after.



## Indian Dancing

Reception loved One World Week! They found out about different cultures from around the world and the children themselves were able to explain how we may be different in some ways, but we are all human and equal. The children especially loved taking part in the Indian dancing workshop joining in enthusiastically with the movements.



# Reception



## Caterpillar Observation

Butterflies flitted their way through Reception's learning in March. The classes studied the life cycle of a butterfly, doing some close observational drawings of the caterpillars that had arrived in class.



## The Very Hungry Caterpillar

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. They learned important new words such as chrysalis and metamorphosis and then sequenced and re-wrote the story in their Literacy lesson.



## Cress Investigation

In their topic on 'Sowing and Growing' the children considered what conditions plants need to grow. They discovered that plants need water and light to stay healthy and applied their knowledge when they planned their cress investigations, deciding where they wanted to put the cress in the classrooms and how much to water it. They then made predictions and watched it grow!



## Super Soup

Reception decided to make some carrot and coriander soup after reading the story of *The Enormous Turnip*. It proved to be very tasty with many children asking for second helpings! Pupils went on to produce some fantastic independent writing as they wrote clear instructions on how to make soup.



## Teen Numbers

At the start of the Trinity Term it was all about the tricky teens, although Reception didn't have a problem. They practised counting to 20 and identifying all the different 'teen' numbers and proved the teens weren't tricky at all.



## Seaside Adventures

The children went on a train adventure to the seaside and role played their trip. On their arrival they enjoyed seaside activities such as jumping over the waves, building a sandcastle, looking for crabs in the rock pools and eating fish and chips. The fun led into some fantastic writing about what we would see and do at the beach.



## Recycled Vehicles

Reception enjoyed making their model vehicles out of recycled bits and bobs. Having put so much time and thought into designing them, they couldn't wait to see what they looked like.



## Yoga

Reception made the most of the wonderful summer weather, with lots of learning outside and even some yoga in the shade of the beautiful oak tree



## Spacemen

For their final topic of the year, Reception studied space and learned about Neil Armstrong – the first person to walk on the moon. The children particularly enjoyed exploring the topic in the role play area.



# Little Crackers

At Little Crackers Nursery we believe it is 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 busy as the children enjoy a wide range of structured activities.



**Little Crackers**



## Story Time

Little Crackers enjoyed one of their favourite stories when Miss Lisa read *The Tiger Who Came to Tea* by Judith Kerr. They had great fun reading, retelling and acting out the story, then enjoyed a tea party - luckily, they all got a chocolate finger before the Tiger pinched them all!!!



## Forest School

Our Little Crackers pre-school group take every opportunity to enjoy the outdoors, climbing on trees, sliding down trunks and keeping an eye open for the Gruffalo. The children love playing under the tent, with the hammocks, the slides, the sticks, the leaves, the stones, and most of all in the mud kitchen. No matter the weather, the Badgers are always well prepared in their waterproof clothes and just adore their sessions outside with Forest School Practitioner, Mrs Clarke.



## Diwali Celebrations

Little Crackers had so much fun when Miss Anupa shared her Diwali celebrations with them. They loved learning all about this important festival, and enjoyed finding out about the Rangoli patterns, the light from the fireworks, the gifts and sweets from family and friends and the light from diya candles.



## Remembrance Poppies

Little Crackers got very involved with poppies after taking part in the school's Remembrance Day assembly. They discussed how poppies help us remember the people we love, and those we no longer see and then enjoyed creating their own magnificent poppy art.



## Stickman

In the winter weather our Little Crackers enjoyed finding ice and mark making in the snow and frost, before making wintery pictures inside. The story, *Stickman*, matched their wintery work, and gave them an opportunity to spot some lovely rhyming words.



## Ice Pictures

Little Crackers made icy pictures by collecting natural bits and bobs and arranging them on plates. They poured water over them and left them outside overnight. The next morning, they were delighted to discover that their freezing plan had worked! Their pictures had frozen solid, and looked beautiful when they hung them up.



## Nursery Dinners

At lunchtime in Nursery the children enjoy tucking into their roast chicken (or veggie alternative) with lots of yummy vegetables and gravy. Each table has a member of staff to help with cutting up and pouring, but as you can see, the little ones are keen to have a go themselves!





### Sequencing Maths

Getting a head start in Maths is so important so we never miss an opportunity to put the spotlight on Maths. The children enjoyed a sequencing challenge in the outside area developing problem solving, reasoning and maths skills all in a lovely, natural environment.



### Chinese New Year

Our Little Crackers explored Chinese culture when they learnt about the New Year celebrations. Not only did they build our own Great Wall of China, but after watching lion and dragon dances in celebration parades they danced, listened to music and painted their own dragons too. Do you like their fiery dragons? They made their own paintbrushes using pegs and 'things' to create the fantastic textures.



### Preparation Skills

The Badgers and Hedgehogs focused on their preparation skills by using peelers and graters to prepare carrots and white cabbage for a lovely coleslaw. Everyone tried hard, listened to instructions, used the tools with confidence, and we avoided any fingers falling in the mix! A 'grate' effort by everyone!



### Pre Writing Skills

In Nursery we work hard to develop pre-writing skills using lots of different finger strengthening techniques. Painting, pegging, brushing, digging, squeezing all helps develop finger control ready for when the children want to write!



### Pancake Day

On Shrove Tuesday everyone enjoyed making pancakes - cracking the eggs to mix the batter was a great way to start the day but choosing our toppings and eating the pancakes was plenty of fun too! Our lovely little ones enjoyed finding the flour and adding oil to make their own pancake playdough even getting stuck in with the kneading and squeezing.



### British Science Week

It was all about daffodils at Little Crackers Nursery. Observing, drawing, painting, counting and finding out all about their life cycle. The children planted bulbs, found the roots, stems and petals, and then they got counting! It was a great way to join in with British Science Week.



### Warwick Bear Teaches Road Safety

Warwick Bear came to visit to share some important road safety messages. Through story, song and activities the children were helped to understand how to be safer around traffic. They found out that they should stop before the kerb, look and listen for traffic and then hold hands with a trusted adult to cross the road safely. It was a really engaging interactive session and our lovely little ones were delighted to receive their very own safety bears.



### Nursery Sports Day

Little Crackers had a fabulous time at their Nursery Sports Day. The children headed outside excitedly 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 cones, the tennis rackets and even the dressing up race.



### Little Crackers Pre-Schoolers Graduation

The Little Crackers Nursery team organised a very special 'Graduation Ceremony' to celebrate the pre-school group 'moving on' to big school where the children were each presented with a little scroll by Nursery Teacher, Lisa O'Carroll-Bailey. The children had practised two special songs for the occasion and performed them perfectly much to the delight of their parents and grandparents. It was a great way to mark this important milestone for the little ones.



# Whole School Initiatives

## Maths Week England

Crackley Hall joined schools across the country celebrating 'Maths Week England', a movement that aims to share the joy of mathematics with everyone. All year groups explored the mathematics that we see all around us and use every day: from STEM challenges and engineering, the mathematics of art and design, to puzzles and games like sudoku and chess.



## Mental Health Week

Crackley Hall School took part in Children's Mental Health Week. Across the school teachers ran teamwork activities for their classes to support pupils in their development to being resilient, creative and proactive citizens. Every child also enjoyed a special Forest School session. Forest school encourages children to learn new skills in a setting where they are free to problem-solve and think of new ideas. Its play-based approach builds confidence and can pay dividends in academic performance but it also known for improving pupils' mental well-being. The classes enjoyed working outside with Forest School Practitioner, Mrs Clark.



## World Book Day

World Book Day is much loved at Crackley Hall School and is always a lot of fun. The children and staff came to school dressed as their favourite book character and joined in a whole host of story themed activities. There were so many inventive and creative costumes and everyone looked amazing. Pupils enjoyed story time in the library, a design your own book cover competition and lots of book quizzes.

World Book Day inspires and delights children with the wonder of reading and books, while helping to reinforce the importance of building literacy skills for life.



*"World Book Day inspires and delights children with the wonder of reading and books, while helping to reinforce the importance of building literacy skills for life."*





### British Science Week

Crackley Hall School celebrated British Science Week and across the school the children enjoyed fascinating Science lessons, taking part in plenty of hands-on experiments and investigations all designed to engage and inspire the next generation of young scientists.

Science Lead, Julia Roberts, said, "British Science Week is always lots of fun here at Crackley Hall and this year's topic of Growth inspired us all. Pupils enjoyed a wide range of fascinating and fun experiments running alongside their normal day-to-day lessons."

### Robotics Day

Pupils at Crackley Hall were captivated by the school's Robotics Day, thanks to Steve Hubbard from Robotfun. The day began with an assembly where Steve shared many different types of robots including a Robot based on Theo Jansen's self-propelling robots strandbeests.

Across the day pupils took part in workshops. Upper School children got hands on with programming in python while the Lower School enjoyed programming with a brand-new robot Indi using colour cards to control the robot's direction of movement.

The day was designed to engage pupils in engineering and science through fun, practical experiences and the children have had great fun learning about programming while working together to make sure their robot followed the right commands.



### STEM Week

It was full steam ahead for Crackley in the final full week of school, with classes across the school focusing on Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths topics for STEM week.

Whether taking on Design challenges, making moving toys, solving codes, making movies, building bridges or straw structures it was clear that Crackley Hall's STEM week encouraged plenty of critical thinking and problem-solving across the classrooms.





# Art Show



## Crackley Displays Creative Talents

In May, Crackley Hall hosted an Art Show with pupils from across the school, from Nursery up to Junior 6, revealing their amazing creative talents to stunned parents, friends and teachers.

The children's work on display featured over 250 different paintings inspired by artists and stories from around the world. They included artwork inspired by *Kensuke's Kingdom* and Hokusai's *The Great Wave of Kanagawa*, the abstract work of Kandinsky, art that explored the Cornish coastline, Jim Dine inspired pieces linked to the theme of Romance, as well as art based on the work of Georgia O'Keeffe and Claude Monet, paintings inspired by sunsets and collages developed using the techniques employed by Kirsten Peters.

Working on their pieces gave the children the opportunity to study different artists, to appreciate their work, inspirations and colour palettes. It linked into topics from across the curriculum including Science, English, Geography and even Maths.

Many parents and children attended the exhibition to view the framed artwork mounted on display boards in the school hall. All were amazed at the talent on show with many remarking the pictures would grace any wall.

The standard of work on show was outstanding and a joy to view. There was a huge variety of approaches and styles and the exhibition gave every child a chance to shine.





# Residentials

2021/22 saw the return of residentials and the children embraced the opportunity to learn new skills and forge further friendships.

## Fun In The Sun For Junior 4 At Kingswood

Blue skies and sunshine greeted this year's Junior 4 adventurers on their residential trip to Kingswood Activity Centre in Staffordshire in March.

For three days, pupils took up the challenge of working together as a team taking part in a wide range of activities, including zipwiring, problem solving, night-line and, perhaps the most challenging of all, bed making!

All of the pupils showed a wonderful willingness to try new experiences and to celebrate each others' successes. It really was wonderful to see them building memories, that will last a lifetime. Way to go, Junior 4!



## Junior 5 Reached New Heights On Their PGL Adventure

In March, Junior 5 headed off to PGL in Hertfordshire for three fun-filled activity-packed days. They took part in a whole host of activities including obstacle courses, archery and a sensory trail and had fantastic fun making memories and challenging themselves.

They certainly stood out in their bright orange wet weather gear when they readied themselves for the lakes and they whizzed up the wall reaching new heights in their climbing. Everyone had a smile on their face and brought back so many stories to tell. Well done, Junior 5!



## Junior 6 Had A Fantastic Welsh Residential

Junior 6 had a fantastic time at the Aberdovey Outward Bound Centre in May, where they spent a fun-filled four days.

The staff there could not have been more accommodating, and the children were immersed in a whole host of exciting activities from the time they stepped off the coach. They enjoyed orienteering, gorge walking, canoeing, speed boat rides, hiking, and campfires, where they even cooked their own food, as well as abseiling and raft building.

All the activities focused on team building and helping the children to understand their role within a team. The children all became more independent and resilient to situations. They were amazing and it really was a wonderful week away – good job Junior 6!



# Productions



## Christmas Nativities

Always a highlight of December, this year we enjoyed four nativity productions. Each and every one of them spreading the message of Christmas as only little children can.

Nursery performed *Away In A Manger* and it told the story of Maurice the mule and his very special manger. The children enthusiastically (for the most part) sang and those with lines delivered them with panache. 'There's a baby in my manger, it's amazing,' said Maurice the mule, and so it was. Performing on stage to a large audience of excited parents takes more than a little courage, but our Nursery animals, stable folk, star, shepherds, wise men and Mary and Joseph were all magnificent.

Reception got *Busy In Bethlehem*, telling the nativity through the eyes of a busy Bethlehem soldier. Watching and directing the crowds in Bethlehem is a soldier sent by Caesar Augustus. When Mary and Joseph arrive late, the little soldier is initially cross, but soon forgets all about his organising and follows the shepherds and wise men to discover a very special baby has been born.







## Christmas Nativities

Junior 1's nativity was *A Little Bird Told Me*, a lovely nativity full of catchy songs that the children really enjoyed. When little Robin is shivering away a little bird tells him of some exciting news. Robin is invited to join a flock of birds flying south to find the baby. On their way the birds meet shepherds, a star, angels, wise men and their camels and come up with their own unique present for Jesus. Junior 1 put on an enthusiastic performance, we thought they were amazing.

Junior 2 performed *A Midwife Crisis*, to a delighted audience of parents. It was a modern take on the traditional nativity story and told of a very busy midwife and her put-upon donkey Steve. Determined not to miss a very important birth, she rushes out into the night in search of a palace fit for a king. With the help of some angelic angels and a very bright star, the midwife is led to a humble stable to find the very special baby already waiting for her. It was a wonderful and uplifting story.



## The Three Trees

Crackley's Junior 5 pupils took to the stage on Wednesday 30 March to perform a simple but dramatic mini-musical, *The Three Trees*, portrayed the intrigue and mixed emotions of the Easter story. Junior 5 carried the narrative with great passion, and it was lovely to see them bringing the musical to life. It was a moving production, full of expectation, disappointment and ultimately joy, the messages well worth reflecting on as we approached the Easter break.



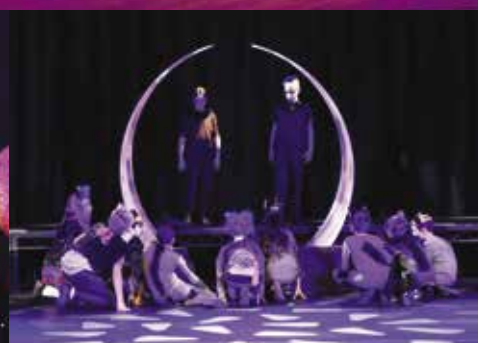


## Summer Production

This year's full scale musical production was Faraway Places. The children took to the stage at the Leamington Spa Centre and just wowed the audience with their superb performance.

Split into two acts, the whole school production saw children from Reception through to Junior 6 tread the boards in fabulous adaptations of *Aladdin* and *The Lion King*.

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. A huge thank you to our wonderful staff for all their hard work and to parents for their fabulous support in the run up to the performance.





# Sport

## Football



### U10 Football Tournament At Princethorpe

In September, Crackley Hall took part in Princethorpe's Primary Schools' U10 Football Tournament. Crackley played each team in turn in a ten minute each-way match and finished in third place overall.



### U10 Football festival At Repton Prep

In October the U10 Boys played in the Repton Football festival against teams from Repton, RGS Worcester, Fairfield Prep, St Anselm's and Packwood Haugh. There was plenty of terrific football on show as well as exemplary sportsmanship. It was another great opportunity to gain experience.



### U11 ISA Midlands Football Tournament

The U11 Boys travelled to Kidderminster to play in the Midlands ISA Football Tournament in November, with the incentive that if they could finish in the top four, they would qualify for the national finals, due to be played at St George's Park. Despite a challenging fixture list, the boys played excellently, resulting in five wins from five games. In the play offs, Crackley faced the winners of the other groups, despite losing their first game, the team remained determined and with commendable skill, they took victory in all their remaining games to finish as tournament runners-up. The boys were delighted to qualify for the national finals!



### U9 Football Festival At Repton Prep

In November, the U9 boys travelled to Repton Prep, for their annual football festival. They faced six teams from five schools, and all had fun playing lots of fantastic football in the sunshine. The morning was all about gaining on-pitch experience, learning the game and just enjoying playing football.



### #LetGirlsPlay Football Festival

Junior 5 and Junior 6 girls took part in a triangular football tournament against Crescent School and Repton Prep in March as part of England Football's #LetGirlsPlay Biggest Ever Football Session. Over 120 girls were delighted to put on their boots and head out to the fields to show off their footballing prowess, an initiative Crackley Hall School was delighted to support to help champion equal access for girls in football.



### U11 Boys Enjoyed ISFA Midlands Tournament

In March, Crackley Hall U11s travelled to Repton School for the ISFA Midlands 7-a-side tournament. In blustery conditions, the boys soon settled and maintained an excellent standard of football throughout their matches, only losing once. The boys finished 3rd in their group, having won three, drawn two and lost one; narrowly missing out on the top two positions, which would have taken them to the semi-finals.



### U11 Boys Are The ISA Football Plate Champions

The U11 Boys Football team put on a super performance at the ISA National Football finals on Friday 11 March. The boys travelled to the home of the England teams, St George's Park, an amazing venue, which was enough excitement in itself. They played brilliantly taking the game to their opponents, playing nine matches and only losing one. They came away as Plate champions, an excellent result.

## Swimming



### Crackley Hall Come Second At ISA Regional Swimming Championships

A team of 12 swimmers from Crackley Hall School made the journey to Walsall Gala Baths in early November to compete in the ISA Swimming Gala. Organised by Crackley Hall School, and welcoming children from 20 schools from across the region, the children from Junior 4, Junior 5 and Junior 6 swam 25m races in the pool in the breaststroke, backstroke, butterfly and freestyle.

There was a fabulous atmosphere poolside with the whole team willing each other on and Crackley pupils swam well and there were some tight finishes. Overall Team Crackley finished in second place and the school was delighted that between them Junior 6, Issey and Junior 4, Elora, qualified for four events at the Nationals.





### Two Crackley Hall Swimmers Compete In ISA National Championships

Junior 6, Issey and Junior 4, Elora swam in the Independent Schools Association's National Swimming Championships for the Midlands team at the London Aquatics Centre, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, London, on Sunday 28 November. Issey swam in the Year 6 50m Breaststroke, Year 6 4x50m Freestyle Relay and Year 6 4x50m Medley Relay while Elora swam in the Year 4 4x50m Freestyle Relay. What an amazing experience for them both.

## Hockey



### U11 Hockey Girls Finished Fifth In ISA National Tournament

In November, the U11 Hockey Girls travelled to the Lee Valley Stadium to take part in the ISA National Hockey Tournament. Taking part were 28 teams from across the country.

The girls had a hesitant start in the morning pool round as they adjusted to the atmosphere of a big stadium and just couldn't get onto the score sheet. In their second game, they played with a renewed confidence and, once they scored, they just couldn't stop. The final game of the pool was a tough challenge and the team fought hard to win. That qualified Crackley Hall for Cup Finals in the afternoon.

The Cup competition was against the top seven teams in the tournament. Despite excellent attacking play, the girls just couldn't manage to score, a pattern that continued across the afternoon as the girls struggled to find the goal. An end-to-end game against Littlegarth School resulted in their only loss of the tournament, 0-1. Overall, the girls finished 5th nationally out of the 28 teams competing on the day. A super result.



### U11 Boys take Silver In The ISA Hockey Plate

The ISA U11 Boys Hockey Tournament took place at the Lee Valley Stadium in February.

Crackley Hall's team of nine boys hadn't played a hockey match since Junior 3 but found their feet quickly and played well. In the first game, they had all the pressure, but the opposition scored a goal on the one break they had. The boys kept their heads high and found the goal in the second game, playing well as a unit and winning. In the third game, the boys faced Langley, a specialist hockey school, our boys were really gritty in defence and conceded only two deflected goals. Their last pool game was probably their best game of the tournament, winning by a decisive 2-0.

The boys then moved onto the Plate semi-final knock-out competition and faced Alleyn Court Prep. The Crackley boys were clearly the better team in this battle and were unlucky not to score a handful of goals. They won the semi-final 1-0. They then moved onto the final where they faced St Anselm's School, it was a really close fought game, and neither team could find the goal. The match went to 5-minutes Golden Goal, but the score remained 0-0 so it was down to penalty shuffles. Crackley just lost out to take the Silver Medal in the Plate.

## Cross Country



### ISA Cross Country

In February, Crackley took a team of its fleetest cross-country runners to the notoriously challenging ISA Midlands Qualifier at Bedstone College.

For many of the children, it was their first real exposure to any type of cross-country running and several of the children went down but got straight back up and completed the course in true gutsy Crackley style!

In total, eight out of the 20 runners competing qualified for the Nationals a super result well done to Junior 5s, Patrick and Isaac, and Junior 6s Elle, Issey, Sid, George, Leonardo and Dexter.

The nationals took place at Worksop College in March, and it was fantastic to have Crackley Hall pupils competing at the event.



### Junior Schools Cross Country Challenge

Crackley Hall was excited to welcome Year 5 and 6 pupils from Crescent School, Priors Field Primary School and Balsall Common Primary School for a Junior Schools' cross-country challenge.

The event took place on a freezing cold Wednesday 30 March out on the sports field at Crackley Hall. The children set off with plenty of energy and enthusiasm and demonstrated great determination and perseverance to complete the race.

In the Year 5 girls race Esme ran well and was just pipped at the post to finish in second place. She was followed over the line by Matilda in 9th, Suzie 12th and Julia 14th. The Year 5 boys were next, with pupils giving their all and showing a fabulous work ethic. Crackley's first finisher was Jack in 9th, with Seb in 11th, Ralph 12th, Rayane 13th and Carter 16th.

The Year 6 girls showed grit, determination, and maturity. Fantastic running from Elle saw her lead from the front she came home first closely followed by Issey in 2nd place and Agnes in 6th. The final race was the Year 6 boys and it did not disappoint. The Crackley boys set a fast pace with the competition following on. It was incredibly close with George determined to stay in the lead, fighting off Dexter in 2nd, Leonardo 3rd and Sid in 5th.





# Sport



## Crackley Hall Claim Back The Schools' Shield!

In May, pupils in Junior 5 and Junior 6 laced up their trainers and headed to the hills in Abbey Fields to take part in the May Day Schools Challenge. Crackley Hall has won the competition three times out of four, just missing out last year, so they were overjoyed to claim back the shield this year!

George came in a very close second place overall and Elle was first girl across the line, running a really fantastic time despite losing a shoe in the first 100m!!

## Netball



## Third Place For Crackley's U11 Netball Squad At ISA Tournament

In February, the U11 Netball squad headed off to the ISA Netball Tournament at St Edward's Prep School, Cheltenham. It was a big event with 24 teams from across the Midlands region taking part.

It was the girls' first competitive experience playing High 5 Netball, but the girls took the new rules in their stride. Playing in Group B, the team were unbeaten in their first six matches, and only conceded one goal.

They finished top of their Group and qualified for the semi-finals where they faced Mylnhurst Prep, losing 5-3 in a tight game. Crackley Hall then faced Malvern St James, where the resilient girls played brilliantly to win 3-1 to take the Bronze Medal.



## ISA U10s Midlands Netball Tournament

In March, the U10 ISA Netball squad travelled to Stratford Prep for the ISA Midlands Netball tournament. Playing the new rules of 5-a-side Bee Netball, the team made a great start winning their first match, showing great skills and flexibility, as they swapped from position to position. They then went on to win another three matches. They then faced Tettenhall College and in a tough game went down 4-2. The girls finished in second place in the group.

The play-offs saw the girls face Tettenhall again. Despite starting really well and at half time drawing 1-1 at the final whistle. Tettenhall just pipped the girls to a medal 3-1.

All the girls represented their school extremely well, and they were a delight to coach, as they were real team players!



## U9s Runners-Up At ISA Midlands Netball Tournament

In March, Crackley Hall took part in the ISA Midlands U9 Netball tournament. Crackley Hall's squad of seven girls played brilliantly, adapting well to the new 'Bee Netball' format. The 16 schools competing were split into two pools. Crackley's girls won six out of their seven group matches, narrowly losing to Stafford Prep to finish second in their pool. That meant they progressed to the semi-finals where they faced Old Vicarage School. That was a really tight game with the score 1-1 at full-time, and 2-2 after extra time, so the girls faced Golden Goal. Crackley came out the victors with a super goal within the first 30 seconds from a cool and collected Amy.

In the final Crackley faced the only team who had beaten them all day, Stafford Prep. Following a really close contest, Crackley just lost out 3-4.

## Athletics



## Crackley Hall Take The Midlands Title At Regional ISA Athletics

Crackley Hall took a team to Solihull on Thursday 26 May to compete against schools in the Midlands Regional ISA Athletics Qualifier. Many of the children put in amazing performances and a record number of athletes were placed in both track and field events. Together the children's outstanding efforts helped Crackley Hall secure the overall team title for the Midlands region.

Crackley's highlights included, for the boys: Isaac Fox qualifying in the U10 600m, Leonardo Pavli qualifying in the U12 150m Sprint, George Moreton qualifying in the U12 600m, Dexter Robinson qualifying in the U12 High Jump and Olly Moore qualifying in the U12 Cricket Ball Throw. Then for the girls: Sienna Lenton qualified for the U10 Long Jump, Emily Divers qualified for the U11 70m Sprint and the U11 150m Sprint, Julia Kozhan qualified for the U11 Rounders Ball Throw, Issey Cleary qualified for the 80m Sprint and the Long Jump and Elle Weir qualified for the 600m.

On the day, nearly every Crackley relay team qualified for the finals and the Year 6 Boys, Sid Penn, Leonardo Pavli, Dexter Robinson and George Knott won the Year 6 Boys Relay and qualified for the Nationals.

## Cricket



## U9 Cricketers Enjoy Hallfield Kwik Cricket Tournament

The Junior 4 boys attended the Hallfield Prep Kwik Cricket tournament in May, giving them the opportunity to compete against a variety of schools from around the Midlands. All of the boys improved as the day went on, working on their line and length when bowling, and their shot selection when batting. The highlight of the day was Vaughan's huge six, which was flicked beautifully over mid-wicket and was identified as the 'shot of the day'.





## Crackley Take The Bronze Medal At ISA Midlands Cricket Tournament.

In June, Crackley Hall hosted its annual ISA Midlands U11 Hardball Cricket Festival welcoming teams from across the Midlands to play two teams from Crackley Hall on the sports fields.

In addition to the main competition, all the teams participated in a range of fielding, catching, batting and bowling clinics. The quality of play on display was excellent, with clear evidence of each school improving not only their cricketing skills, but also their tactical awareness in the 6-a-side format contested over 5 overs each way.

After the first round, The Priory School and Ruckleigh School topped their groups and both went forward to contest the final, with Ruckleigh School eventually lifting the winner's trophy. Having finished second in their group Crackley Comets faced Tettenhall College to decide third place. After a tight match, Crackley Hall was delighted to take the win and claim the Bronze Medal.



## Cycle-Cross

Crackley Hall's Cycle-Cross team travelled to Spratton Hall for their inaugural competition.

For most of the team, it was their first ever event and it presented them with a wonderful opportunity to practise cycling up muscle burning hills and then flying down undulating slopes, into hairpin corners. All of the team were outstanding in their effort, attitude and skill, and they should be very proud of their performances. Crackley Hall finished third overall a huge well done to Charlie Aston, Joseph Mason, Jack Lawton and Kian Thandi

## Sports Day



## Key Stage 1 Enjoy A Super Sports Day

We held our much-anticipated Key Stage 1 Sports Day on Wednesday 8 June and the children all enjoyed a super morning out on the 'big field'.

Crackley's sports stars of the future jumped, sprinted and threw their way through a jam-packed morning of sporting fun, enthusiastically taking on the carousel of different activities.

Proudly wearing their House colours and with big, enormous smiles, the children clearly all had a super time.

Reception had their own designated area and had soon mastered the challenges of running, throwing and hurdling. Whilst over on the Key Stage One pitch the children powered their way through athletics events such as the sprint, long jump, throw and hurdles, as well as enjoying traditional sports day favourites. The morning finished with the traditional relay race.

In every event the children earned points for their houses and the final results were very close.

Thanks to Junior 6 who organised all the activities and a huge well done to everyone who took part.







### Key Stage 2 Sports Day

What a great day of sport out on the school fields our Key Stage 2 Sports Day proved to be. So much determination on show in both the track and field events. Well done to everyone in Juniors 3 to 6 for taking part so enthusiastically and showing such fabulous house spirit. Race after race, event after event our outstanding young athletes leapt, threw and sprinted their hearts out.

The school made a full day of it; every child ran in a sprint and every child took part in an individual event and, most importantly, every child had fun.

A very special thanks to Mrs Vaughan and to all the staff for making Sports Day such a great event. Congratulations to Jupiter House who were the overall winners of the event.





# Spiritual

## Minnie Vinnies Send Christmas Wishes

Pupils in Junior 5 and Junior 6 wrote cards and wrapped presents to give out at Christmas to local housebound and disabled parishioners.

The children, were all members of the school's Minnie Vinnies Club, the junior arm of the charity St Vincent de Paul Society.



## Skipathon For Mary's Meals

Crackley Hall School was delighted to present a cheque for £5,000 to the charity Mary's Meals in assembly on Monday 25 April. The money was raised in a charity skipathon organised by the school's Minnie Vinnies club where pupils had enthusiastically hopped, skipped and jumped backwards and forwards across the school hall.

In the assembly, Corina O'Brien spoke to the children about the work of Mary's Meals who now provide a daily meal in a place of education to over 2 million children across the world. She shared how it takes just £15.90 to feed a child for a year and how the children's donations would provide a whopping 62,500 meals. The cheque was presented by Rob Duigan, Headmaster and pupils Lily, Marley and Nirvair.

## First Holy Communion Mass

Friday 27 May was an important day for three Crackley Hall pupils as they celebrated their first Holy Communion Mass.

The children had been preparing for this special day for a while, learning about their faith. In a 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 then received the sacrament with the utmost sincerity and reverence. Following celebratory prayers, reflections and concluding hymns the recipients were presented with certificates and posed for proud parents and friends in front of the altar.



## Parishioners' Tea

Crackley Hall welcomed grandparents and parishioners to school in June for a special afternoon cream tea. Organised by Crackley Hall's Minnie Vinnies, the junior arm of the charity St Vincent de Paul Society, the guests gathered in the School Hall. The guests enjoyed a programme of entertainment from the School Orchestra to the Chamber Choir as well as a number of individual solo performances.

It was a lovely afternoon and our Parishioners' Tea was clearly thoroughly enjoyed by all.



# Platinum Jubilee



## Platinum Jubilee

In February, children at Crackley Hall School, with the help of Mr Robertson from the Grounds team at the Princethorpe Foundation, marked Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee by planting trees on the school grounds adjacent to the playground. Each class came down in turn to plant their tree including the Little Crackers Nursery children.

The crab apple, rowan and field maple saplings were purchased by the PTA as part of the Queen's Green Canopy initiative.

Then in June, Crackley Hall School formally marked the Jubilee with the opening of a new wild garden at the bottom of the school's playground. The new Jubilee Garden was officially opened on Monday 13 June, with the unveiling of a sign in front of the whole school, who had gathered on the playground for the event.

The new garden had been landscaped as a semi-wild area. It is accessed through an arch and path planted with willow, that as it grows will be woven to create a tunnel. The garden includes native trees, a small wildflower meadow with seating and a bird bath.

The Jubilee Garden is intended as a space for the children to spend time relaxing together with their friends away from the busy playground at breaktimes and lunchtimes.

The plan is to continue to develop the garden year on year and for the Jubilee Garden to be looked after by the school's gardening stewards.

Headmaster, Rob Duigan, said: "We hope the garden will grow into a peaceful wild space that will encourage wildlife. It has transformed what was a patch of unused land into a space where the children can enjoy nature through the seasons. I am really looking forward to watching it grow."





# Crackley Compass

## New Crackley Compass Reflects The School's Ethos And Values

Crackley Hall School introduced a new pupil recognition and reward programme at the start of the 2021-2022 school year. The Crackley Compass was a set of ambitions based on the school's ethos and values that encourages and supports all Crackley's pupils and helps them to get the best out of their time at the school.

Developed in conjunction with the pupils, the Compass fosters and develops seven skills, qualities and behaviours.

It asks pupils to be Curious, Responsible, Active, Collaborative, Kind, to engage with Learning and be Enthusiastic. Acrostically spelling out 'Crackley' and represented and brought to life by seven animals, named by the children, the qualities in the Crackley Compass have become an integral part of the children's experience at school engaging them in their learning and helping to build confidence and self-esteem.

## The new Crackley Compass friends have helped bring the ambitions to life, they include:

Sherlock the Meerkat who is Curious

Professor Penguin who is Responsible

Beezley the Bee who is Active

Archimedes the Ant who is Collaborative

Fin the Dolphin who is Kind

Beaky the Owl who is always Learning

Waggles the Dog who is Enthusiastic



*“Our Crackley Compass builds on the legacy of the school’s original star system. It expresses our school community’s shared values and challenges and reminds all our pupils ‘You Can Make A Difference’. With the ‘Y’ completing Crackley. This set of ambitions, shared by all pupils and staff, will stand us in good stead for the future both in school and out.”*

**Duncan Cottrill,**  
Deputy Headmaster





# Good Schools Guide

## First Review For Crackley Hall By Prestigious Good Schools Guide

Crackley Hall School received its first ever review by the prestigious Good Schools Guide. The Guide, which selects schools to be included on merit alone, is famous for its unbiased and candid reviews of state and private schools.

The 2,500-word review, which now appears on the Good Schools Guide's website included a pen portrait of the Headmaster, plus insights into teaching and learning, sport and the performing arts, co-curricular activities, pastoral care and leavers' destinations.

Commenting on the school's approach to teaching and learning, the Guide says:

*"Pupils and parents praise their 'lovely' teachers for 'listening', 'really fun lessons', and 'taking every opportunity to find what they are good at and encouraging them'".*

*"Parents say teachers manage work levels so that at any one time, 'there may be three different levels taught in the same classroom, giving individual attention, focusing on each end of the spectrum' without, as one noted, 'losing sight of the middle of the road'. Children who need stretching are given extension work within classroom, in small tutor groups and access a gifted and talented programme."*

The very comprehensive review concludes with a Last Word, which sums up the Guide's findings:

In his address to pupils the headmaster tells them, 'You are valued, try your best at all times, stay involved, be kind to others and the world. Smile!' That pretty much sums what we saw at Crackley Hall.

You can scan the QR code below to read the full review.

Scan me



*"Pupils and parents praise their 'lovely' teachers for 'listening', 'really fun lessons', and 'taking every opportunity to find what they are good at and encouraging them.'"*



THE  
GOOD  
SCHOOLS  
GUIDE



# PTA News

**Crackley Hall's PTA worked tirelessly across the year organising a range of events, activities and services to help raise funds for the school.**

From non-uniform days to events such as the Colour Run and Summer Fair, social activities such as the regular coffee mornings or services such as second hand uniform sales, the whole school community says a huge thank you for all they do to support the school.

## Children's Christmas Fair

The magic of Christmas arrived early at Crackley when Father Christmas popped in to see everyone at the PTA's Children's Christmas Fair. It was a lovely surprise for the children to be called down in turn in their class to discover the marvellous PTA elves and fairies had laid on a super treat. The school hall had been transformed into a winter wonderland filled full of activities and games and behind a screen was the big man himself.



## Family Fun Day

Crackley Hall's PTA Family Fun Day returned in May, and it was a super affair. Children enjoyed a variety of activities, from face painting to go-karting and nail art to football. A special visit from the West Midlands Fire Service was a highlight, along with the much appreciated ice cream van! Teachers and parents alike volunteered their time, either by running a stall or with the organisation behind the scenes. It was a fantastic day enjoyed by all!





# 75th Anniversary

## 75th Anniversary Celebrations A Great Success!

Former pupils of St Joseph's Convent School were welcomed back to St Joseph's Park in Kenilworth in March, some two years later than originally planned, to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the founding of a school on the site.

The Open House was well-attended with pupils and teachers from across the generations including former Headmistresses Sr Philomena Bowers and Lesley Cox, and teachers Maureen Hazelwood, Rachel Taylor and Brigitte Wood, whom old pupils were delighted to see. While many of the visitors were local, a number travelled from afar including Mary Taylor, née Darby, who had made the journey from Spain to attend.

On their arrival the guests were treated to a performance by Crackley Hall's talented Chamber Choir, then, Mr Duigan welcomed them formally speaking of the long history of the school and its ethos that remains to today, nurtured by the latest generation of staff and pupils. Father Kevin Hooper then led the gathered guests in a celebratory St Joseph's Day Mass.

With the formalities over and the sun shining, visitors were invited to explore the site. Crackley Hall's young pupils were on hand to guide the guests and throughout the school the classrooms were filled with displays, and there were whole school photos and honours boards displayed on the corridor walls to the delight of visitors.



## 75th Celebrations Rounded Off With A Fabulous Gala Ball

It was wonderful to welcome guests to Crackley Hall's postponed 75th Anniversary Gala Ball in May. It was a very convivial affair with over 100 guests including current and former parents, current and former staff and past pupils. The sun shone favourably and The Gables was transformed into a party venue with impressive decorations, setting the scene perfectly for the live music and dancing as the evening progressed.

Guest speaker and past pupil, Fleur Sexton, gave a heart-warming speech, sharing fond and amusing memories about her time at the convent school. It was lovely to hear her speak so affectionately of the teachers she remembered, in particular Sister Philomena, who was Headmistress of St Joseph's at the time and was a special guest at the Ball.

It truly was a wonderful evening giving past pupils, current and former parents and current and former staff the perfect opportunity to celebrate the school's success and rich history.





# *Staff 2021-22*



Rob Duigan



Duncan Cottrill



Susan Glen-Roots



Sharon McAloon



Clare Bird



Mina Bhogal



Amy Broadbent



Faye Burley



Gail Buswell



Anupa Chauhan



Verity Clark



Chantelle Brannen



Anne-Marie Convey



Eva Cowlshaw



Wendy Duigan



Lorraine Dyer



Harriet Edkins



Jayne Ellis



Claire Ewen



Sarah Francis



Ana Green



Catriona Hardwick



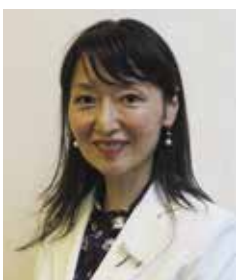
Clare Hill



Carrie Holmes



Sorcha Horan



Helen Huang



Susanne Jackson-Mayne



Gurinder Kaur



Antony Kefalas



Sarah Lammas





Michael Luis



Emma Malcolm



Mary O'Brien



Lisa O'Carroll-Bailey



Susan Olden



Victoria Osborn



Rod Paphitis



Tom Pike



Julia Roberts



Dolores Simmonds



Richard Stedeford



Susie Steeples



Claire Tatton



Lois Thomas



Ruth Townsend



Anna van Zyl



Jenny Vaughan



Kat Vaughan



Steve Vaughan



Karmel Verma



Jo Walter



Sophie Wheatley



Nicola Whitehurst



Nicki Wildey



Zoe Wild



Karen Wright







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