



# Review

A look back at an exciting and busy school year.





# Welcome

to the 2024-2025 Crackley Review. Charting the life of the school, our annual review celebrates our pupils and their learning journeys and provides a wonderful insight into how Crackley Hall School helps children grow, learn and achieve.

Our annual review captures and records the school year celebrating its highlights across the year groups. It's a fabulous memento and one I hope you will treasure for years to come.

My sincere thanks are extended to all our staff who have contributed to the Review, both teachers and office staff, and to Mrs Helen Stephenson, who has devoted many hours to bring it to fruition.

So much happens here day in day out and it is hard to capture it all. There were so many wonderful and memorable moments, exciting adventures and incredible achievements. I hope you enjoy reliving it all.

**Robert Duigan**  
Headmaster

*"Our annual review captures and records the school year celebrating its highlights across the year groups. It's a fabulous memento and one I hope you will treasure for years to come."*

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# Prize Giving 2025

**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's Prize Giving took place on Tuesday 1 July with the Lower School receiving their awards in the afternoon and Junior 5 and 6 in the evening.

Headmaster, Rob Duigan, gave thanks to the many who give so much to the school in so many ways. He reminded pupils that those who succeed have to be brave enough to fail. He encouraged all the children to strive to do their best, to live in the moment, never limit themselves and to celebrate the success of others.

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, contribution to school life and achievement. 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 announced the following:**

St Joseph's School Spirit Award	Jessie Johnson
Zanyi Chalmers Award	Ben Fuller
Scholarship Award	Eleanor Widnall
Sister Mary Patrick Trophy for Caring	Gwen Kiteley
PTA Crackley Hall Shield	Grace Aston

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
<b>Our Head Pupil Awards of Service</b>	
To our outgoing Head Boy	Felix Hughes
To our outgoing Head Girl	Jessie Johnson
<b>The Arts Awards</b>	
Lord Cup for Artistic Endeavour	Anthony Lavelle
Abbotsford Cup for Art and Design	Theo Hamblett
St Joseph's Salver for Progress and Endeavour in the Performing Arts	Malachi Zhanje
Crackley Award for Commitment to the Performing Arts	Rohan Vatish
David Lloyd Performing Arts Trophy	Felix Hughes
Penny Matthews Shield for Singing and Musical Theatre	Jessie Johnson
Kyriakou Trophy for Music	Alexander Tsang
<b>Sports Awards</b>	
Vaughan Trophy for Girls Cricket	Eleanor Widnall
Duigan Cup for Cricket	Archie James
Vital Shield for Netball	Jessie Johnson
Crackley Hall Rugby Trophy	Leo Clarke
Boraston Shield for Tag Rugby	Alexander Tsang
Fermahan Shield for Boys Athletics	Rory Sheridan
Fermahan Shield for Girls Athletics	Scarlett Moore



# Prize Giving 2025



Award	Winner/s
<b>Sports Awards <i>continued</i></b>	
Card Cup for Cross Country	Leo Clarke, Scarlett Moore
Wood Cup for Hockey	Amelia McCullough
Vital Shield for Boys Football	Ryan McDermott
Brockwell Trophy for Girls Football	Scarlett Moore
Crackley Hall Swimming Salver	Charlotte Panton
Crackley Hall Award for the Most Improved Sports Boy	Othniel Kahonde
Crackley Hall Award for the Most Improved Sports Girl	Mahnoor Bhatti
Marshall Shield for Endeavour in Boys Sport	Soren Bowley
Marshall Cup for Endeavour in Girls Sport	Grace Aston
Crackley Hall Shield for Sporting Excellence	Scarlett Moore
Dick Trophy for Sport	Leo Clarke
<b>Academic Awards</b>	
Mansfield Shield for Sustained Effort and Progress in Learning	Ava Fisher
Doust Shield for Attitude and Approach to Learning	Soren Bowley
Rhys Taylor Cup for Endeavour	Amelie Sheeran
Roderick Jones Trophy for French	Ben Fuller
Timms Cup for ICT and Computing	Shuvan Banerjee
Lammas Trophy for Geography	Swaran Lehal
Keeley Cup for History	Henry Ferguson
Simmonds Trophy for RE	Eleanor Widnall
Castens Award for Science	Harrison Pope
Le Poidevin Shield for English	Charlotte Chan
Clark Cup for Mathematics	Charlotte Chan
Williams Cup for Sustained Effort & Progress	Josh Bhushan
Lower Key Stage 2 Science Trophy	Ashleigh Aston
<b>Special Awards</b>	
Da Vinci Shield (Boys)	Felix Hughes
Da Vinci Shield (Girls)	Ella Wither

With special thanks to Ed Hester, Foundation Principal, for presenting the awards.

# Book Prizes

Form	Prize 2025	Name
<b>Reception A</b>	Achievement	Niko Illum
	Effort and Diligence	Layla Osman
	Progress	Oliver Bannister
	School Spirit and Kindness	Stephanie Davies-Scanlon
<b>Reception O</b>	Achievement	Maya Innes
	Effort and Diligence	Leonardo Latham
	Progress	Hawi Okonjo
	School Spirit and Kindness	Hendrix Basi
<b>J1H</b>	Achievement	Amelie Crockford
	Effort and Diligence	Milla Grimes
	Progress	Eva Lewis
	School Spirit and Kindness	Paula Ortega Salazar
<b>J1R</b>	Achievement	Emma Kong
	Effort and Diligence	Joshua Docking
	Progress	Bandile Sibanda
	School Spirit and Kindness	Rosie McDermott
<b>J2M</b>	Achievement	Wilson Spencer
	Effort and Diligence	Harper Miller
	Progress	Charlotte Turner
	School Spirit and Kindness	Sebastian Yardley
<b>J2V</b>	Achievement	Ethan Pope
	Effort and Diligence	Ralph Graham
	Progress	Edison Xu
	School Spirit and Kindness	Autumn Melbourne
<b>J3C</b>	Achievement	Bevan Abraham
	Effort and Diligence	Josh Swindells
	Progress	Royce Jennings
	School Spirit and Kindness	Dottie Robinson

Form	Prize 2025	Name
<b>J3W</b>	Achievement	Matteo Forino
	Effort and Diligence	Raya Lehal
	Progress	Sam Christofrou
	School Spirit and Kindness	Arjan Lail
<b>J4A</b>	Achievement	Ashleigh Aston
	Effort and Diligence	Fred Swindells
	Progress	Oscar Wilton
	School Spirit and Kindness	Liana Holden
<b>J4C</b>	Achievement	Lillyrose Moss
	Effort and Diligence	Harry Gibson
	Progress	Theo Crosdale
	School Spirit and Kindness	Gracie Bush
<b>J5L</b>	Achievement	Edward Beresford
	Effort and Diligence	Emily Fuller
	Progress	Zac Sanger
	School Spirit and Kindness	Zach McMahon
<b>J5S</b>	Achievement	Beatrice Cowlshaw
	Effort and Diligence	Ethan Muzungu
	Progress	Vincent Avrain
	School Spirit and Kindness	William Menon
<b>J6H</b>	Achievement	Charlotte Chan
	Progress	Henry Ferguson
	Commitment and Diligence	Lexi-Jean Ellis
	Contribution to School Life	Charlotte Panton
<b>J6V</b>	Achievement	Othniel Kahonde
	School Spirit and Kindness	Harrison Pope
	Progress	Morgan Homer
	Commitment and Diligence	Charlie Tilsley
	Contribution to School Life	Evie Tomkinson
	School Spirit and Kindness	Diya Kharbanda



# Successes and Achievements

## Woodland Trust Silver Award

Crackley Hall School was thrilled to achieve both the Bronze and Silver Awards of the Woodland Trust's Green Tree Schools Award. Designed to encourage outdoor learning, working towards the award allowed pupils to take positive action for the environment while also enjoying learning in the great outdoors. Pupils completed a series of 'Green 15' challenges helping them learn valuable lessons about the natural world. The activities also supported the school's drive towards sustainability too.



## Pupils Impress at Midlands ISA Art Competition

Junior 6 pupil, Charlotte, Junior 1 pupils, Rosie and Emma, and 2024 leaver, Sara, were all recognised in the Independent Schools' Association's Midlands Area Art Competition.

Charlotte's painting *You Wouldn't Like Me When I'm Angry*, was awarded second place in the Key Stage 2 2D class. Rosie received a Highly Commended for her work *Arctic Fox* in the EYFS and Key Stage 1 2D class. Emma was recognised with a Highly Commended for her piece *Self Portrait In A Frame* in the EYFS and Key Stage 1 3D Art class. Finally, Sara received a Highly Commended for her *Banksy Sustainability Tribute* in the Key Stage 2 class.



## Stay 'n' Play 20th Birthday

Little Crackers Nursery's toddler group, Stay 'n' Play, celebrated its 20th Anniversary.

The group first opened its doors back in September 2004 and has been offering a place for mums, dads, grandparents and tots to get together and offer each other friendship and support ever since. Over the years, Stay 'n' Play has welcomed lots of little ones to its weekly get togethers and many of the children have subsequently gone on to join the nursery or Crackley Hall School.



## CISC Christmas Cards

Junior 1 pupil, Isher, was awarded first place in the 2024 Catholic Independent Schools Conference Christmas Card Competition. The theme for the competition was 'Hope Renewed' reflecting the upcoming theme for the Catholic Church's Jubilee Year 2025. Isher's winning design featured a vibrant nativity scene with Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus in his manger. Liana in Junior 4 and Josh in Junior 6 were both awarded Highly Commended for their entries in the competition. They were presented with their certificates by Mr Duigan.



## Primary Maths Challenge

Two Crackley Hall pupils, Eleanor and Charlotte, were awarded Gold certificates in the Primary Mathematics Challenge, with many more receiving Silver and Bronze awards. The competition is an exciting mathematical challenge aimed at pupils in Years 5 and 6.

This year, 16 Junior 6 and 12 Junior 5 pupils took part boosting their confidence in mathematics, developing their reasoning skills and problem solving.



## Outstanding LAMDA Results

At Crackley Hall pupils from Junior 1 to Junior 6 study for the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) examinations.

Pupils in Junior 3 and Junior 4 sat their examinations in November and were delighted with their success. The pupils achieved a 100% pass rate, with all our Junior 3 and 4 children scoring the top two grades of Merit or Distinction. Junior 3 and Junior 4 studied the Solo Introductory and Speaking Verse and Prose syllabuses where pupils are expected to recite poems from memory.



Junior 5 and Junior 6 took their LAMDA exams in February.

Junior 5 studied for Grade 1 Speaking Verse and Prose while Junior 6 took the Grade 2 exam. It was an outstanding set of results, with everyone achieving a Merit or Distinction, which reflected the children's hard work and commitment.

In late spring, Junior 1 and Junior 2 sat their LAMDA examination results and they also celebrated super success. There was a new syllabus introduced this year with new poems to learn so we were delighted that the majority were awarded a Distinction.

Studying for the LAMDA examinations is a fantastic way for all our pupils to develop communication skills. They all worked so hard, so huge congratulations to them all.



## Junior 6 Jessie Shone at ISA Musical Theatre Nationals

Junior 6 pupil, Jessie, competed in the ISA National Musical Theatre finals on Wednesday 30 April after qualifying for the nationals in the online qualification round. Jessie travelled to Gosfield School in Essex to compete and delivered a stunning performance of *Journey to the Past* from the musical *Anastasia* demonstrating expressive depth and technical skill. She held her own against fierce competition and should be incredibly proud of reaching the national finals of this prestigious competition.



## Reading Millionaires

Junior 6 pupil, Ella, read over two million words across the academic year, devouring more than 35 books. She topped the leader board in the school's annual reading challenge. A further six pupils, Alex, Hector, Gabriella, Niamh, Beatrice and Edward, all also passed the million word mark.

Crackley Hall's approach to reading and literacy is supported by Renaissance's Accelerated Reader system. Children in Junior 3 to Junior 6 take a quiz after reading each book that tests their understanding. The approach promotes reading for pleasure whilst ensuring the children read appropriately challenging books. It totals up the books and words read, and we find the competitive element has a positive impact on children's motivation to read.

There are so many good books out there for children to read and Crackley has a very positive reading culture in school.

# Successes and Achievements

## Good School Guide Returned

The Good School Guide paid a return visit to Crackley Hall School. An editor from the Guide visited the school in March, interviewed the Headmaster, Rob Duigan, toured the site with pupils, observed lessons and spoke to teachers and parents.

In their updated review, the Guide commented:

*In an area 'saturated with choice', as one parent put it, Crackley Hall's superpower is its homeliness. 'Like one big, welcoming family – you feel it straightaway,' said a mother. Always a busy school, it's now more academic, with teaching 'more focused and attentive to specific goals'. Parents like that it's still 'achieved in a nurturing, not a pressurised, way' and that they 'go at the rate of the child'.*

Capturing the school's friendly and refreshing approach, it was another very comprehensive review.



## Crackley Hall House Cup

Venus House celebrated after winning the most hotly contested competition in school, the House Trophy. Their victory was announced at the start of the Leavers' Assembly at the end of the Trinity Term. The House Cup was presented to the outgoing Venus House Captains, Harrison and Amelia, as jubilant Venus pupils cheered.

As always, the House Trophy was a close run affair. Across the year, pupils had participated enthusiastically, enjoying all the different house events, from sports, to music and art, as well as working hard in school to support the ongoing amassing of points in their daily lessons. It was a steady and consistent performance that helped Venus pupils reach their huge total of points and finish first this year. Well done to them and to all the pupils in the school for your commitment and effort.



## Junior 6 Scholarship Awards

We wished the very best of luck to our Junior 6 pupils as they moved on to a range of outstanding local independent and state schools. They had all been amazing pupils and we were incredibly proud of them all. It was lovely to be able to celebrate these pupils' remarkable achievements with them in their Leavers' Celebration.

This year, 27 of the cohort moved on to the Foundation's senior school, Princethorpe College, 13 on scholarships including all-rounder, academic, art, sports, music and drama awards. We also had pupils going to a number of other independent schools as well as local grammar and state schools. We wished Junior 6 the very best of luck as they headed off to their new secondary schools and their next stage in life.

# School Leaders

## 2024-2025 Captains and Stewards

In their final year at Crackley Hall, Junior 6 take on leadership responsibilities to support the school. Every pupil in Junior 6 takes on a role either as a Captain, Steward or Prefect and together they support the running of the school.

As well as the Heads, Deputies, House, Subject and Sports Captains, there are also the Student Council and Form Prefects who work with and represent pupils across the school.

Our school leaders rose to the challenge of their roles and were excellent role models for the younger pupils at the school.



**Head Girl**  
Jessie Johnson



**Head Boy**  
Felix Hughes



**Deputy Head Girl**  
Grace Aston



**Deputy Head Boy**  
Alex Tsang



**RE & Ethos Captain**  
Mahnoor Bhatti



**RE & Ethos Vice Captain**  
Jessica Atkinson



**Girls' Games Captain**  
Scarlett Moore



**Girls' Vice Games Captain**  
Lexi-Jean Ellis



**Boys' Games Captain**  
Soren Bowley



**Boys' Vice Games Captain**  
Theo Hamblett



**Library Captain**  
Charlotte Chan



**Library Vice Captain**  
Amelie Sheeran



**Performing Arts Captain**  
Rohan Vatish



**Music Captain**  
Evie Tomkinson



**Student Council Captain**  
Diya Kharbanda



**Student Council Captain**  
Swaran Lehal



**Student Council Captain**  
Rory Sheridan



**Student Council Captain**  
Ella Wither



**Student Council Captain**  
Jude Wood



**Student Council Captain**  
Ben Fuller



**Mars House Captains**  
Eleanor Widnall



Charlotte Panton



**Saturn House Captains**  
Josh Bhushan



Henry Burgess



**Jupiter House Captains**  
Othniel Kahonde



Leo Clarke



**Venus House Captains**  
Amelia McCullough



Harrison Pope

# Junior 6



**Junior 6V**



**Junior 6H**



## Black History Month

For Black History Month, Junior 6 studied the stunning work of African American artist, Reggie Laurent. He predominantly works with geometric and organic shapes to create stunning abstract pieces. Junior 6 loved experimenting with their brightest colours to create 'homages' to this fabulous artist and, along the way, thought about the fantastic achievements made by people of colour over the centuries.



## Santa Claus Cards

It's never too early for Christmas at Crackley Hall and our Junior 6s enjoyed feeling festive as we started the new school year when they produced their designs for the PTA's Christmas card scheme. Junior 6 chose Santa Claus as their theme and while *Jingle Bells* and *I Wish it Could be Christmas* rang out from the Art Room, the children carefully created Nordic themed Santas ready for the printers.



## Zentangle Landscapes

Junior 6 studied the geology of landscapes in their Mountains and Rivers topic in Geography. Ms Holmes linked their Art lesson to the topic using Zentangles. Pupils worked hard to create striking landscape drawings using varying thicknesses of black with a tiny 'pop' of colour. They were so incredible we put them on display.



## Angel Art

As part of their Activity Week, Junior 6 got creative making beautiful angels. Using folded paper, pipe cleaners and with a bauble for a head, their finished angels looked amazing.



## Advent Wreaths

Junior 6 crafted Advent Wreaths for the school. They took great joy in producing beautiful creations and the wreaths were then used as a centrepiece in each classroom, serving as a heartfelt reminder of the season's message - to spread love and hope to everyone.



## Heart Dissection

Junior 6 enjoyed enriching their Science learning with a little dissection. In groups they examined hearts and whilst there was some initial revulsion that was rapidly replaced with fascination as the children got hands on exploring the ventricles and valves. It was really interesting for them to see the organs in real life after studying them in their lessons and they were able to link their theoretical studies to the reality of how the organs work.



## Bread Making

During Activity Week, the children had great fun baking bread. They carefully measured out all the ingredients and then kneaded them all together. Everyone enjoyed getting hands on, crafting bread rolls. They were popped into the ovens to bake and there were many comments from pupils and staff about the wonderful smells wafting through school. It was a fantastic life skill for them all to learn.



### Candlemas

Junior 6 pupils designed and drew candles in preparation for Candlemas. The day commemorates the 'Presentation of Jesus at the Temple', to Simeon and Anna, as described in the Gospel of Luke. Junior 6's colourful candles brought a welcome touch of warmth and light to the dark days at the beginning of the New Year.



### Marvellous Monet

Pupils examined the artwork of Claude Monet and worked together to replicate one of his Water Lilies paintings. They used a 'jigsaw' concept where each student was responsible for a section of the painting. They used pencil crayons to draw from left to right, creating 'flat' water and then developed their origami skills to create the flowers.



### Fractions and Ratio

Junior 6 revised fractions and ratios in Maths. The children worked through and discussed various fraction and ratio problems involving objects such as fruit and animals. When giving their answers, the children practised the wording needed to clarify the concept of ratio. For example, 'for every one part cordial, there are four parts water'. It allowed them to put their learning into practice.



### Spike Computing

In Computing, Junior 6 got to grips with LEGO Spike software. The tech-savvy pupils identified and compared the 'Motor and Movement' blocks by applying different functional settings on the code blocks and observing how each motor moves. The children enjoyed the opportunity to be creative when designing their own robots and worked well together on the challenge.



### French Food

Junior 6 did some listening and speaking activities on Seesaw, learning how to order food in French. They discovered that there is more than one word for 'some' in French, so knowing how to say 'Je voudrais du jambon' but 'Je voudrais de la salade' was important.



### Chinese New Year

In their Mandarin lessons, Junior 6 learned about Chinese New Year. They discovered that in 2025 we waved goodbye to the Dragon and welcomed the slithering Snake! Pupils compared the traditions of Chinese New Year with Christmas. They discovered that the two celebrations have lots of activities in common, such as cooking, shopping, decoration and family dinners together.



### WW1 Projects

As part of their study of World War 1, Junior 6 completed history projects and over half term some of them took on the challenge of bringing their projects to life. We had model trenches, maps and even a moving letter written by a soldier from the Western Front to a family member back home.



### Book Portraits

The children drew self-portraits in preparation for the 'In Celebration of Books' Day. They learnt to 'set' a portrait, placing features in the correct position and then used coloured pencil to show off their talents. The portraits were used as part a small display of favourite books and caused much excitement and inspiration for pupils as they went up and down the stairs.



### Variations Explained

Our Junior 6 scientists explored the fascinating topic of evolution and inheritance. They began by discussing living things, categorising them into large groups of species such as microorganisms, animals and plants. They quickly got to grips with the vocabulary needed to discuss evolution and inheritance and were able to talk about variation within a species confidently. They enjoyed exploring the variation of hair and eye colour in Junior 6!



### Reading Comprehension

Junior 6 read Shirley Hughes' *The Lion and the Unicorn* in their English lessons. It tells the story of young evacuee, Lenny, who is given a brass badge featuring a lion representing bravery and a unicorn symbolising courage. They completed a comprehension on the story displaying excellent dictionary skills as they explored new vocabulary linked to the Second World War.



### Natural Selection Podcasts

Our Junior 6 scientists investigated Charles Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection by researching his work on the diversity of finches on the Galápagos Islands. To demonstrate their learning and share their findings they produced some very informative podcasts.



### Road Safety

Warwickshire's Road Safety Team ran a special session to refresh the children's knowledge and understanding of road safety. In preparation for their move to secondary school, they learned to identify impulsive behaviour and how to develop coping strategies to enable them to stay safe when out and about on the roads.



### Measurement Challenge

The children enjoyed collecting data from each other, carefully measuring hand span, length and height before plotting graphs to display all the data they had collected.



### Codebreakers

In History, pupils explored the vital work carried out by women at Bletchley Park during the Second World War. They were surprised to learn that the women were not even allowed to discuss their work for a long time after the war had ended. They enjoyed reading about the incredible codebreakers, finding out about their lives and achievements. They even had a go at using morse code to say their name.



### WW2 Day

Junior 6 took part in a brilliant World War 2 and D-Day immersion day. Pupils explored the war and what happened in Britain between 1939 and 1945, including topics such as the Blitz, propaganda, rationing and the evacuations. They examined artefacts, weapons and uniforms and investigated stories from the D-Day invasion.



### Bacteria and Fungi

Our Junior 6 scientists bravely delved into the world of bacteria, viruses and fungi in their Science lessons learning that microorganisms have different shapes and can be identified with a microscope. They learnt how viruses can mutate and how vaccinations help to prevent illnesses such as Covid. They were amazed by the size of some honey mushroom fungi and disgusted by the damage caused by athlete's foot fungi. They were horrified by the thought of what they might find in their trainers.



### Leavers' Hoodies

Junior 6 were delighted with their hoodies which will always be a tangible memory of their time at Crackley Hall and their fellow pupils. They provide a sense of belonging and of community and in the long distant future we hope they will prompt wonderful memories of their school days. The brightly coloured hoodies and neon pink caps were particularly useful on their residential trip to France.



### Ice Cream Flavours

Before they set off to Normandy, there was just time in their French lessons for a final recap of the key vocabulary for ordering an ice-cream in French!



### Independent Projects

Eight Junior 6 pupils took part in an exciting initiative designed to challenge their independent learning skills. Pupils undertook their own research into a topic of their choice and then created innovative and exciting presentations. Each pupil used their own time and initiative, with guidance and support provided by Mrs Cowlshaw. The finished projects were presented to Headmaster, Mr Duigan, who was impressed by them all.

# Junior 5



Junior 5L



Junior 5S



## Amazing Aztecs

Junior 5 studied the Aztecs and as part of their cross-curricular learning, they created these incredible interesting and vibrant Aztec mosaics.



## Virtual Geography

Junior 5 embarked on an exciting virtual reality adventure, exploring diverse locations across North and South America. Pupils paired up to visit famous landmarks, then documented their observations, comparisons to the UK, and any questions they had. It was a fantastic way to discover our magnificent world.



## Maths Challenge

Two teams of Junior 5 pupils took part in Princethorpe's Year 5 Maths Challenge. Alongside 52 pairs of enthusiastic mathematicians from 28 local schools, pupils completed a series of puzzles against the clock. It stretched and challenged the children with mathematical activities that required both reasoning skills and mathematical knowledge.



## Material Properties

Junior 5 investigated Materials, exploring the properties of different materials, such as magnets and learning the meaning of three key words - Transparent, Translucent and Opaque.



## Parachute Tests

Junior 5 explored the relationship between surface area and air resistance by creating parachutes of different sizes. They then measured the time each parachute took to reach the ground. Their findings revealed that parachutes with larger surface areas took longer to descend.



## Kensuke's Kingdom

In English, Junior 5 studied Michael Morpurgo's *Kensuke's Kingdom*. The children discussed what the book could be about, looking at the front cover and reading the blurb. After reading the book as a class they created video logs of Michael's first encounter with Kensuke supporting their oracy skills. They produced authentic recordings, where they stayed in character and relived the experience with appropriate expression and clear enunciation.



### Marvellous Monet

Pupils recreated one of Monet's famous artworks using oil pastels. The children learnt how to make a darker colour by using contrasting colours and how to blend colours to create a smooth image.



### Kodu Computing

In Computing, Junior 5 learnt to explore and experiment with Kodu Game Lab. They used their developing skills to make their Kodu react when it saw an object and to eat the apples when their Kodu reached them.



### Writing Chinese

Junior 5 mastered the art of Chinese writing. They started by writing common strokes to form characters, really taking their time and making the effort to write beautiful Chinese. They learned that 'slow and steady' is the key.



### School of Rock

Junior 5 really enjoyed watching Princethorpe College's Musical Theatre Group perform *School of Rock*. The children were particularly delighted to catch up with some of our Crackley alumni who were starring in the show.



### Tudor Times

Junior 5 travelled back in time to the 1480s. They immersed themselves in battles between the House of York and the House of Lancaster and had a great time acting out the reign and succession of the Tudor monarchs. They enjoyed discovering more about the Tudors through information boards, questions and unique items. They even took part in a jousting tournament between the classes.



### Writing Workshop

Author, Jennifer Killick, hosted a writing workshop for the children where they focused on the importance of imagination and planning. Using her series *Crater Lake*, she encouraged pupils to generate their own ideas for a school trip that goes horribly wrong. She took them through a four-step process, building and developing their story lines and adding in creative details to bring their writing alive.



### Change and Adapt

During British Science Week, Junior 5 took part in practical Physics workshops where they made straw rockets and launched them. Linking into the theme of the 2025 week, they thought about what changes and adaptations could be made to improve the distance their designs travelled.



### Chemical Reactions

Junior 5 experimented with creating bubbles using baking soda and vinegar. Starting with 1cm of vinegar and 1tbsp of baking soda, they then increased the amounts in each bottle: double for bottle two and triple for bottle three. They discovered that more gas was produced.



### Adventure Stories

Junior 5 donned their author caps and wrote their own adventure stories. It was fun to see everyone's differing imaginations written down on paper. Some went for thrillers, some had elements of horror and there were even some mythical themes. It was clear that Junior 5 really enjoy writing and their teachers were impressed by the excellent work from everyone.



### Tudor Roses

Henry Tudor, united the white rose of York with the red rose of the Lancastrians to create the Tudor Rose. Pupils explored printing using this rose emblem as a design. Using printing blocks they carved their roses before printing them.



### Spelling Shed

The children eagerly practised their spellings every week, using Spelling Shed, to help them learn their new spelling patterns.



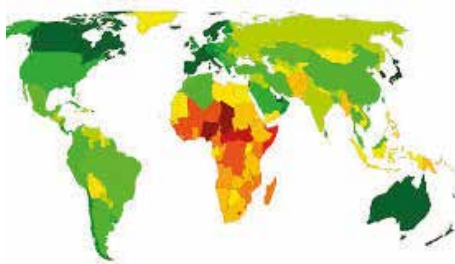
### French Instruments

Pupils enjoyed learning the vocabulary for musical instruments in their French lessons remembering to differentiate between masculine and feminine words. They then read a short opinion text on types of music and musical instruments and answered some questions to show their understanding of written French.



### Dragon Eyes

Junior 5 designed incredible dragon's eyes, thinking about what colours they should use, based on what type of dragon they were constructing. They created the irises of their dragon's eye using colour pencils, drafting film and glass cabochon. They were all original and unique.



### Life Expectancy

Junior 5 engaged in an investigative lesson about average life expectancy, researching and comparing statistics around the world, as well as discussing reasons why life expectancy differs so drastically depending on where you live. All of the children completed excellent investigative work and contributed to an interesting and thought-provoking discussion.



### Mapping Skills

During Geography, Junior 5 developed their mapping skills by using grid references to identify where features such as a bridge, forest or lake are on a map.



### Warwickshire Book Award

Some pupils took part in the Warwickshire Schools Library Service's Junior Book Award. They had to read four books before attending the award ceremony where they had the chance to hear from and meet the authors, ask questions and celebrate all the shortlisted books. They were all delighted to discover that the winning book this year was *Bird Boy* by Catherine Burton, which Crackley Hall's pupils had really enjoyed.

# Junior 4



**Junior 4A**



**Junior 4C**



## First Impressions

Junior 4 explored the concept of first impressions in their English lessons. Starting with an image they described a character's personality, sharing ideas first as a whole class before working independently.



## Roman Day

In October, Junior 4 took part in a Roman Day. They dressed as Roman citizens in togas and tunics and crafted shields and laurel wreath headdresses and got ready to march as a legion against Boudica's Iceni tribe. Pupils also contributed to a year group mosaic and had a go at making Roman honey biscuits to take home.



## Fascinating Fluids

Junior 4 investigated the properties of non-Newtonian fluids. They compared water with a mixture of water and cornflour known as oobleck. The pupils were amazed to see a 200g weight float on top of the oobleck after watching the same weight splash into a bowl of water. They were fascinated to observe how materials behaved under different conditions.



## States of Matter

Junior 4 enjoyed a sticky Science lesson investigating their topic of Changing States. The pupils melted chocolate, observing first-hand how a solid transforms into a liquid when heated. They also learnt that different solids melt at different temperatures.



## Maasai Art

Junior 4 produced wonderful artwork inspired by the African artist, Sarah Shiundu. Pupils used African prints to adorn the long, skinny shapes of the Maasai tribesmen and women as they wend their way home in the sunset.



## Discovering Decibels

In Junior 4, pupils study a Science unit on sound. They investigated how distance affects volume by experimenting with decibel meters and discussing in detail how to ensure a fair test. Afterwards, they drew line graphs to interpret their results.



### Pan Pipes Pitch

As part of their study of sound, Junior 4 made pan pipes in Science to help them further understand pitch. Mr Ashley's class even learnt how to play *Happy Birthday* as a group.



### String Telephones

Junior 4 used their knowledge of sound to investigate how a string telephone works. After creating their own, in pairs, they used the space in the hall to try it out. Each pair managed to explain what happens with the sound vibrations along the string, and why the string had to be tight. They managed to get a network of 12 people hearing each other talking. It was a fabulous investigation.



### Change and Adapt

Junior 4 had an amazing workshop with Princethorpe's STEAM Ambassadors and, Head of Physics, Mr Lee. Pupils took part in a practical Physics workshops led by the Sixth Formers, where they made straw rockets and launched them, thinking about what changes and adaptations could be made to improve the distance they travelled.



### Anglo-Saxon Runes

In History, pupils created their own rune stones using the Anglo-Saxon Runic alphabet. These stones were believed to be imbued with magical powers, so the children chose their own word depending on the magical powers they wanted to receive.



### Perimeter Games

To wrap up their Mathematics unit on Perimeter, pupils turned learning into play by creating rectilinear shapes through engaging games. The students' creativity and teamwork shone brightly, making it an excellent educational experience.



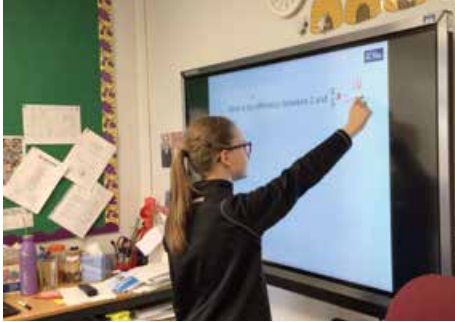
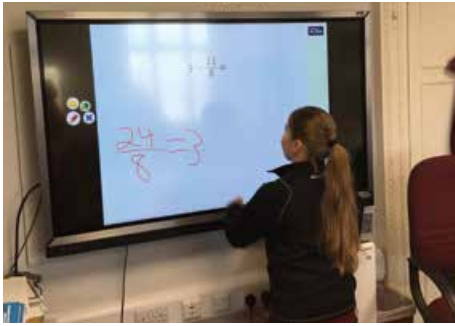
### Waste and Recycling

Junior 4 integrated British Science Week with their Geography topic on 'Waste and Recycling' by undertaking a Science investigation into filtering microplastics from the ocean. Junior 4 tested various materials to determine the most effective at filtering out microplastics, using sand as an eco-friendly alternative.



### Reading Celebration

Pupils thoroughly enjoyed exploring a diverse selection of books and reviewing and recommending their favourites to their peers as part of the Warwickshire Library Service's Reading Challenge. They crafted excellent summaries of the books they read and compiled them into a poster for display.



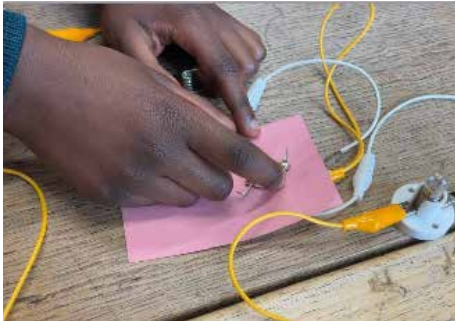
### Sustainability

Junior 4 embraced their roles as eco-warriors, diving deep into our whole school focus of Sustainability by researching renewable energy sources. The children worked in groups to investigate various renewable energy sources, integrating their learnings from both Geography and Science. Each group researched a different energy type and then presented their findings with enthusiasm and creativity.



### Fantastic Fractions

Junior 4 dived deep into the world of fractions. They worked hard to master the art of adding and subtracting fractions with the same denominator using various methods, and extended their learning to include mixed numbers and improper fractions.



### Shapes

Junior 4 enthusiastically immersed themselves in their topic of Shapes, exploring geometry through a range of different activities. They began by investigating the properties of triangles and quadrilaterals, deepening their understanding of sides, angles, parallel lines and symmetry. They expanded their learning by using mirrors to explore reflective symmetry - finding symmetrical patterns and shapes that showcased both their mathematical knowledge and creativity.



### Electricity

Junior 4 completed their exciting topic on Electricity by undertaking a hands-on practical activity where they designed and created their own switches for simple electrical circuits. Working in small groups, the children experimented with various materials to determine which ones made the most effective switches.



### Eco-Explorers

Junior 4 took part in an Eco-Explorers workshop at Princethorpe College. Working in groups, the children rotated round three activities, pond-dipping, mini-beasts and orienteering. Using their Science skills, everyone had fun exploring the natural world, observing and identifying the creatures that live on the Princethorpe estate.



### Dictionary Skills

Junior 4 mastered the use of a dictionary to aid their creative writing. They worked in pairs to find tricky words and their meaning and then used the dictionary and thesaurus to find synonyms to make their descriptions super scary.

# Junior 3



**Junior 3G**

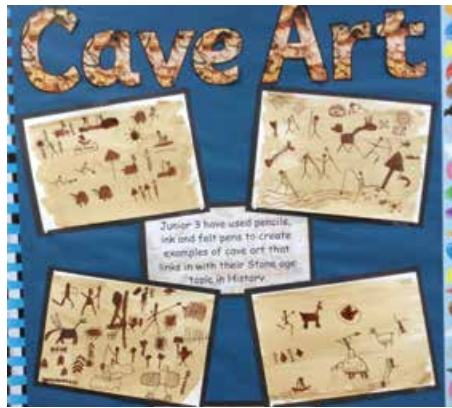


**Junior 3W**



## Freeze Frames

Junior 3 studied the Stone Age in their History lessons and, to help bring the topic to life, the children imagined that they were in three different Stone Age period. The children showed this through freeze frames of bow and arrows, handprints and being in a cave, being farmers, herding sheep and growing wheat and barley. Freeze frames are fantastic for communicating ideas and telling stories and really help engage the children in their learning.



## Cave Art

In Art, Junior 3 produced beautiful rock figure paintings which subsequently sang out through the millennia to the Art Room at Crackley Hall. The pupils used pencils, ink and felt pens to create their own striking 'cave art', full of animals, figures and landscape forms. Truly stunning work from a very talented Junior 3.



## Maths Manipulatives

Junior 3 mastered using manipulatives to solve mathematical problems. By using place value counters, base 10 and cubes, the children increased their understanding of mathematics, before moving on to use pictorial and abstract methods of recording. The children really enjoyed exploring, solving and recording maths in a wide variety of ways.



## Skeleton Science

Junior 3 had an exciting Science lesson when they explored and labelled the main parts of the human skeleton. They discussed its crucial role in support, protection and movement. The class concluded with a lively rendition of the *Skeleton Bones* song, a tune many of you will be familiar with.



## Friction Science

Junior 3 explored friction in their Science lesson by predicting how various surfaces would impact the speed of a toy car released down a ramp. They documented their results in a table, comparing the distances travelled. It was an engaging way to learn about Science friction.



## Epiphany

In French, Junior 3 revised the first three months of the year and the numbers 1-20. They learnt how people in France celebrate Epiphany. One slice of a wooden cake was marked with a sticker and pupil names were picked at random for the children to have a go at finding the special slice. Once they had discovered the King or Queen of Junior 3, there was an interesting discussion about the rules they would introduce if they were King or Queen in their families for the day!



### Rock Detectives

In Science, pupils handled different rocks and learnt how rocks are formed which linked to their topic - rocks and soils. They went on to investigate whether different types of rocks allow water to pass through them and which the water runs off, learning about the permeability of rocks through their own experimentation.



### Mindfulness

For Children's Mental Health Week, the children enjoyed colouring and doodling, learning that mindfulness doodling can enhance focusing skills, the retention of information and even inspire creativity.



### Princess and the Pea

After reading the story of *The Egyptian Cinderella* pupils thought about how they could change other fairy tales into an ancient Egyptian theme. After completing a comprehension to truly get to know *The Princess and the Pea*, they set about finding alternatives to the characters and plot, such as changing the prince to a Pharaoh. Their revised stories were incredibly creative.



### The Mousehole Cat

Junior 3 began their study of *The Mousehole Cat* by using their inference skills to predict what the story might be about. They looked at the image on the front cover and the title and then considered the blurb on the back of the book - there were some wonderful suggestions! They thought carefully about the fearsome storm in the story and challenged themselves to use imaginative vocabulary to describe it, even starting their sentences with an adverb to make their writing even more interesting.



### Measuring Us

Pupils had great fun measuring each other's heights and foot lengths when learning about measuring in mm, cm and metres in Maths.



### Mapping Mousehole

Junior 3 linked their Geography topic on coasts to their English text, *The Mousehole Cat*. They first shared their stories of seaside holidays in the UK and then located them on a map of the UK, using atlases to help. The children used Seesaw to record the locations of these coastal towns and cities on a map. The atlases were so interesting and many of the children got lost inside the pages, marvelling at all the information they held.



### Residential Recounts

After visiting PGL Boreatton Park, Junior 3 reflected on their experiences back in the classroom. They talked about the journey there and back, the activities at the Centre and, of course, lunch! They put these parts of the day into chronological order to structure a recount of the trip. The children then got to work writing in their neatest, joined up handwriting. They had opportunities to edit their work and even to mark it against a copy of the success criteria in their books.



### Ancient Greece

Junior 3 became Athenians and learnt all about Ancient Greek life using hands-on activities, role-play and entertainment. They worked as wax tablet makers, potters and painters, sculptors, fresco painters, pavement makers, lamp makers and even physicians. They also made democratic decisions learning about the origins of democracy today. In the afternoon, Junior 3 took part in a festival of plays and a feast. History well and truly came alive for Junior 3.



### Easter Baskets

To mark the end of the Lent Term, and the start of the Easter holidays, the children made beautiful Easter baskets and Junior 3 were delighted to take them home to share with their families.



### French Animals

The children showcased a range of animal vocabulary and demonstrated an impressive grasp of key French phonic sounds when they learned about animals in their French lessons. They used these skills to describe how many animals appeared in various pictures. The class particularly enjoyed practising French phonic sounds with matching actions, which helped reinforce their pronunciation in a fun and memorable way.



### Angle Accuracy

In Maths, pupils practised identifying the different types of angles and turns, including direction, as well as measuring them with accuracy.



### Shape Studies

Junior 3 revised the names of 2D shapes before moving on to identifying less common and irregular shapes. Pupils then handled and sorted 3D shapes, using identifying features such as faces, edges and vertices. They used Seesaw to record their practical hands-on work in this topic.



### Persuasive Writing

Junior 3 became green enthusiasts as part of their cross-curricular work around biomes and the story *The Great Kapok Tree*. In English, they used the text to explore the perils of chopping down trees in the Amazon rainforest. The children learnt about the language features of persuasive texts and used them to help them prepare to write letters to the rulers of the world, persuading them to stop chopping down trees. It was wonderful to see them wanting to make a difference.

# Junior 2



**Junior 2M**



**Junior 2V**



## Noah's Ark

Junior 2 loved learning about the story of *Noah's Ark* and how God flooded the Earth and put his faith in Noah and his family to save two of every kind of animal and bird. As part of their learning, the children created these beautiful arks which made a lovely display.



## Angels

In RE, Junior 2 had an interesting discussion about angels in the Bible. They then looked at how different artists have portrayed angels throughout history, which of course inspired them to create their own beautiful drawings and paintings. The results were just wonderful!



## National Poetry Day

For National Poetry Day, Junior 2 read the hilarious poem *Rapunzel* by Kenn Nesbitt. In this alternative version of the traditional tale, Rapunzel decides that she has had quite enough of hanging around waiting for Prince Charming to rescue her. Junior 2 had fun performing the poem with great gusto, it was a brilliant way to enjoy poetry.



## Rhino Readers

Junior 2 were delighted with their new set of Rhino Readers and their brightly coloured jackets caught the attention of them all. The books follow the Phonics curriculum and are matched to the level pupils are reading at. They support the children's mastery of key sounds and tricky words and reinforce their phonics and comprehension skills.



## Lion Art

Junior 2 found out about stories from the Old Testament. They role-played the story of brave Daniel in the Lion's Den using these amazing lion masks that they had created themselves. It really helped to bring the story to life and some impressive roars were heard all over the school.



## Dragonologists

Junior 2 became dragonologists and went in search of the dragon that had been spotted flying in the skies above Crackley Hall! They found plenty of interesting clues out in Windmill Wood and recorded them in their digital journals and then compiled a detailed report.



### Kindness Chain

Junior 2 made an Advent kindness paper chain to mark the beginning of Advent. Each pupil wrote an act of kindness on paper and linked this to the chain. Each day during Advent a pupil read one of the kindness links on the chain and then completed the act in school.



### Pudding Lane Experience

Junior 2 travelled back in time to September 1666 for an immersive learning experience about life in 17th-century London. They took on the roles of city workers just as the Great Fire of London broke out. Their activities included baking bread in the Pudding Lane bakery, creating cures at the Apothecary, weaving, metalworking and sewing. Throughout the day, many were called to draw water from the well and form bucket lines to combat the raging fire. It was an amazing way to explore history!



### Money Maths

Pupils worked hard in Maths to understand money. They identified different amounts, made totals in lots of ways and practised their adding and subtracting. They even made their own shop in their lessons and decided how much they wanted to charge for items, before collecting money and giving change.



### Great Fire Recounts

Junior 2 wrote detailed explanations of The Great Fire of London. They organised their writing using subheadings and explained how the fire started and how it spread rapidly through the streets. They gave detailed reasons and organised their sentences carefully to ensure they made sense. They then went on to write diary entries, from that fateful September night when Thomas Farriner forgot to extinguish his bakery oven. They practised using a picture map to retell a diary entry using a range of conjunctions, adjectives and proper punctuation. Truly excellent writing from them all.



### Parable of the Sower

Junior 2 learned about the Parable of the Sower. The story of the farmer who planted seeds in four different types of soil but only had one good crop. They understood that with the right soil, water and nutrients, a seed has the potential to grow into something amazing. They even planted their own seeds which they promised to look after and help grow into something amazing!



### Great Wall of China

Pupils loved their cross curricular topic on China and enjoyed fully immersing themselves in the country and culture. As well as exploring the Great Wall and realising just how long it is they had fun crafting away, making dancing dragon puppets and painting their own Willow Pattern plates.



### Super Psalm Teamwork

Linking their learning in RE and Art, the children worked wonderfully together to create a beautiful piece of collaborative art illustrating the well know Psalm The Lord Is My Shepherd.



### Spelling Shed

Junior 2 loved their weekly spelling lessons where they showed their knowledge in their test. The Spelling Shed scheme tailored spellings to the children, who then used the Spelling Shed app to practise their words each week. It was fantastic to see pupils applying their spelling knowledge to their writing across the curriculum and to see how they strived for 10 out of 10 each week.



### Butterfly Farm

Junior 2 visited Stratford Butterfly Farm to find out more about rainforest planets and animals. As well as enjoying seeing hundreds of beautiful butterflies flying freely in their rainforest environment, they took part in an educational workshop exploring different rainforest plants and animals. It was a fascinating trip for them all!



### Rainforest Art

As part of their topic on Rainforests, pupils created 'Tiger' collages inspired by the artist Henri Rousseau. They were 'roarsome' and the children even chose titles – just like Henri did for his painting.



### Time-Telling Skills

Junior 2 honed their time-telling skills becoming confident in telling the time to the quarter hour and even in minutes past and to the hour. Time-telling skills are incredibly useful, especially during school weeks filled with so many activities!



### Author Reports

Pupils explored the concept of an author in their English lessons. To help them understand, they delved into the imaginative world of Quentin Blake and had a chance to read a collection of his stories and discuss their favourite book with each other. They then used their research to write a non-chronological report. They practised using headings, subheadings and facts, and enjoyed organising their writing into clear sections.



### Statistics

In Maths, pupils investigated statistics and pupils explored data collection, tally charts and bar graphs with great enthusiasm. It was wonderful to see every child engaged and excited about learning maths skills that are so useful for us all.



### Town Teamwork

In their Computing lesson, pupils collaborated and worked together in groups to combine their individual Lego village creations into one impressive town. Each group contributed a design, working together to build something larger and more elaborate than what any single group could create alone. As they worked on creating their town, the children explored what makes a town a special place where people live and work.



### Palace Paintings

Junior 2 turned their artistic hands to wax resist painting when they created fabulous fairy tale castles out of shapes. They decorated each shape with patterns in wax crayon and used watercolour washes in contrasting colours. Their Art lesson helped bring their history studies to life, as the children learnt all the correct names for the different parts of a castle, from the moat to the barbican and the battlements.

# Junior 1



Junior 1H



Junior 1R



## Our School

In Geography, Junior 1 explored the local landscape. They started by learning the school's location, practised writing the address and added an illustration, making the learning process both enjoyable and memorable.



## Cave Models

Junior 1 created cave models in their Design and Technology class, as part of their history studies on homes. Caves were used for early human dwellings and a model developed the children's understanding of the differences between homes today and homes from the past.



## Drama Giants

In Drama, Junior 1 showcased incredible acting skills when they brought the classic fairy tale, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, to life. We had a troupe of angry giants, cunning thieves and strong woodchoppers, along with excellent individual performances from Jack, Jack's mother and the bean seller.



## Writing Awards

Following on from writing letters to Jack and the Beanstalk's mother in English, Junior 1 drafted their own versions of the fairy tale. They were all so engaged with their work on the topic and they produced beautifully crafted stories. Some were so good that Mr Duigan decided they deserved a Headteacher's Award. Congratulations to Elliot, Felix, Yubo and Emma.



## Sight Sense

Junior 1 investigated the five senses in Science. They started with eyesight and used blindfolds to understand how challenging and unusual it can be to lose this sense. They went on to learn about Braille and how this tactile system has empowered many individuals to achieve independence.



## St John's Museum

Junior 1 visited St John's Museum in Warwick. The children enjoyed being immersed in a Victorian classroom learning the 3 'R's, using a slate to write on, chanting the alphabet and numbers and going outside for an exercise drill with 'Miss Roach'. It was a great way to bring their History studies to life.



### Black History Month

For Black History Month, in October, Junior 1H explored the artist Alma Thomas and created this wondrous work in beautiful colours. The children used cotton buds to make the shapes – improving their fine motor skills and finding out about how the colour wheel works. Everyone rose beautifully to the challenge, improving their understanding of equality and respect along the way.



### Bonfire Night

For Bonfire Night, Junior 1 produced this amazing artwork. Mrs Ambrose used sparklers to model the sounds, smells and sights of November 5 before great fun was had by all when the paint came out. Pupils then used their visual feast of fireworks and flames to develop their descriptive language in their writing.



### Tractor Visit

Junior 1's faces were a picture when farmers Dale, Debbie and Chris kindly brought their enormous tractors, harvester and trailer into school to talk to the children about sustainable farming. The pupils had been studying farming in their Geography lessons so this was fabulous extension for their learning. Junior 1 had lots of questions and were particularly fascinated by the size of the tractor's huge tyres! Everyone had a great time and learnt a lot.



### Washing History

As part of their topic on the Victorians, Junior 1 learnt how to wash clothes, without the modern technology of washing machines! Using a tin bath, children took turns to wash an item of clothing by soaking it in warm water, rubbing with soap then scrubbing the stains with a brush. They then wrung the clothes dry by hand before hanging them up to dry.



### World Kindness Day

To mark World Kindness Day the children in Junior 1 created rosettes showcasing their best qualities. Alongside Mrs Ambrose, they visited various staff members around school to offer their assistance with willing smiles and helpful hands.



### Christingles

Junior 1 linked their Science lesson with RE when everyone learnt about Christingles - what they are, why they are used and how they are an important way to help celebrate Advent. Everybody had the chance to make a Christingle and thought carefully about how they can bring light to others who are feeling sad or lonely at that time of the year.



### Snowflakes

In Science, Junior 1 explored Polar Places. They looked at the types of weather in cold places and the dangers of snow and ice and how it impacts our lives. The children learnt about how ice can be thin even when it looks thick and to never walk on frozen ponds or lakes. They also looked at how snowflakes are made. Everyone had a chance to fold and cut paper to create their own beautiful and unique snowflake.



### Penguin Passion

Junior 1 celebrated 'World Penguin Awareness Day' and learnt how penguins are being impacted by pressures such as climate change. Junior 1 researched and created fact files about the lives of penguins, their habitats, diets and appearance. The children discovered plenty of unusual facts and became penguin experts!



### Insulator Investigations

Finding the best insulator proved an interesting investigation in Science. Junior 1 wrapped test tubes of hot water with different materials – cotton wool, fleece and bubble wrap. They measured their temperatures every five minutes and discovered that bubble wrap kept the water warmest longest making it the best insulator.



## Transport

Junior 1 visited the Transport Museum in Coventry. They discovered how bicycles evolved and how rubber on wheels makes a scooter or bike rider smoother. They explored the exhibits seeing plenty of amazing bicycles, cars, trucks, motorbikes, buses, tanks and other vehicles in their extensive museum.



## Capacity

Pupils used different resources to find the capacity and volume of different containers in Maths. The children also looked carefully at different containers to see if they were full, empty, half full, nearly full or nearly empty before solving problems linked to this.



## Telling the Time

Pupils used analogue clocks to help them learn to tell the time. They started with o'clock and half past the hours. They also looked at the language of time, such as before and after, and at calendars, including reading calendars to find out when special events happen and which day or date they are on.



## Maths Arrays

In Maths, Junior 1 explored arrays, creating them and then grouping or sharing, using counters to help make sense of it all.



## Easter Story

Pupils explored the Easter story in English through a comprehension task by sequencing the events in the correct order. After learning all about the importance of Easter in the Christian faith, they also had fun making Easter baskets, nests, hats and cards.



## Butterfly Lifecycles

Butterflies were researched in Science with the children finding out about their life cycle and how they are different to moths. Junior 1 then wrote up non-fiction texts in English, with a focus on minibeasts, including drawing and labelling pictures of them clearly.



## Number Squares

In Maths, Junior 1 developed their number knowledge up to 100, looking at patterns on a 100-square and learning how to partition numbers in different ways.



## Fat Balls

Junior 1 enjoyed making fat balls using suet and bird seed to feed our feathered friends. Working with Ms Holmes, they carefully mixed up the mixture and then stuffed it into paper pots with string attached that they then hung upside down from the trees. The activity supported their learning topics in their RE and Science lessons and we are sure the birds enjoyed their energy boosting treat!



## Year of The Snake

To mark Chinese New Year, Mandarin teacher Mrs Huang taught Junior 1 about the sixth animal in the zodiac, the snake, which symbolizes wisdom, mystery and patience. She then challenged the pupils with a fun quiz to test their knowledge.



## Library Lovers

We spotted some of Junior 1 in the library, changing their reading books. Pupils love borrowing a book and reading it as an enriching reading experience, then bringing it back again to swap. They are very keen to explore the vast array of books on offer: picture books, chapter books, fiction and non-fiction something to suit every reading taste.

# Reception



**Reception A**



**Reception O**



## Early Writing

At the start of the year Reception worked on their early writing, practising holding a pencil correctly and then forming the short vowel 'o' shape. Together with their daily phonics sessions, it was a key skill that Reception returned to time and time again across the year.



## Remembrance Poppies

Reception learnt that people wear poppies as a reminder of the soldiers, sailors, airmen and others who gave their lives to help us live in a more peaceful world. Together they produced this beautiful poppy art which we displayed for Remembrance Day.



## Picasso Photographs

Reception explored Pablo Picasso and the Cubist Movement. They had enormous fun cutting up photographs and designs to create wonderful self-portraits which we put up on display. Not everything is in the right place but that's what it's all about!



## Road Safety

We welcomed Warwickshire Safe and Active Schools to Reception to support the children in learning all about the Road Safety Code: to think about where they are, to walk safely, stop at the kerb, look both ways, listen for vehicles they can't see and hold hands with a grown up. The children enjoyed dressing up to help remember these steps and listening to the story about Warwick Bear and how he stayed safe with his friend.



## Reindeer Bags

Reception got creative making reindeer bags as part of their Christmas crafting. They practised their scissor skills, supporting EYFS goals and developing their fine motor skills. It was a fun and festive way to learn!



## Attwell Farm

To start their topic on Animals, the children went to Attwell Farm Park. They had the opportunity to handle rabbits, guinea pigs, a giant millipede and a tarantula. In the bug barn, the children were able to observe stick insects, tree frogs, a giant tortoise and lots of spiders. They then went on to see the chickens and bigger animals including reindeer, llamas, alpacas, donkeys, pigs, cows, goats, miniature horses and a horse and her foal.



### Counting Skills

Reception focused on the foundations of Maths, counting skills. They worked practically demonstrating their understanding of one more and one less, joining in with group games and activities. It was great to see them developing their Maths vocabulary as they explored the concepts.



### Hanging Fish

In Art the children developed their threading skills and their pattern making skills to create their own hanging fish mobiles.



### Lovely Library

Reception enjoyed exploring the school library and looking at all the books. There is such a variety of books there, fiction and non-fiction. Plenty to interest and engage them!



### Ordering Caterpillars

The children worked on measuring in Maths exploring the word 'length'. They found out that it meant how long or short something was, lying down and not standing up! Maths vocabulary can be very confusing, especially when something long, suddenly becomes short when you compare it to something else but Reception were super clever and showed their understanding in their books by comparing and ordering the lengths of caterpillars.



### World Book Day

Reception dressed in their PJs and enjoyed meeting the author Emma Carlisle, for World Book Day. The children also got busy with bookmarks, sharing stories, working out the mystery story tellers, completing a character quiz, and then drinking hot chocolate with marshmallows. What a lot of fun!



### British Science Week

As part of British Science Week the children completed a timed challenge on the topic of 'Change and Adapt' that developed their scientific skills of observation, predicting, testing, reviewing and adapting. They listened to the story of the *Three Billy Goats Gruff* and were asked to create a raft to help the goats cross the river. They chose their own resources and set about the task. They then tested the rafts on the water and talked about what they could see before adapting their raft to make it more suitable.



### Mother's Day

The Reception children produced beautiful Mother's Day cards and biscuits to present to their mums on Mother's Day. Inside their clever 'handbag' cards they used their best handwriting skills to carefully write a special message for their mum. They also enjoyed making and decorating tasty biscuits as a treat to share with their mums.



### Book Fair

Reception all enjoyed the Book Fair coming to school. They browsed the shelves excitedly and then sat down to read their chosen books in their classrooms. Books and reading enhance language skills, expand vocabulary and improve literacy and we took every opportunity to instil in the children the wonder of books.



### Easter Cakes

Reception loved preparing for Easter. They got sticky making chocolate Easter nests with shredded wheat and mini eggs. They created beautiful Easter cards with special handwritten messages for their families and enjoyed an Easter egg hunt outside in the sunshine.



### Revising Place Value

Reception revised place value in their numeracy lessons to ensure they understood how the value of each digit helps you compare and order numbers. The children worked with Mrs Allen and the numicon to identify and break down the numbers into tens and ones. It was excellent work from everyone!



### Summer Tennis

Reception were happy to be out on the playground in the glorious sunshine honing their early tennis skills. Listening carefully and taking turns they tried to return the ball to Mrs Allen. That meant learning how to hold the racket and about direction and control. Everyone gave it a very good go!



### Fishy Stories

In Literacy, pupils developed a story map with actions to help them write about 'Fred the Fish' getting lost. Building on that work, the children then wrote their own stories, using ambitious vocabulary, their best handwriting and not forgetting finger spaces. It was lovely to see them focusing so beautifully on the task.

# 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, children enjoy their first steps into education. Life is always busy and always fun.



**Dormice**



**Badgers and Hedgehogs**



## Dens

Our Little Crackers had brilliant fun making dens in the outside playground. Half the fun of a den is building it, so everyone relished constructing the dens, using their imaginations, sharing their ideas and asking questions. Then it was time to play in all the different den spaces they had created and the children loved role-playing, using their social skills as they shared the spaces with their friends.



## Recycled Robots

Our oldest Nursery children showed incredible creativity crafting an impressive display of Recycled Robots. Using various sizes of cardboard boxes and masking tape, the children constructed their designs, which were then proudly showcased on our noticeboard.



## Music Lessons

Our nursery children enjoy music lessons with specialist teacher, Director of Music, Mrs Olden. They take part in fun, structured music based activities that support their learning. It's amazing to see how it boosts their confidence as they show us what they can do.



## Family Fun

Little Crackers Nursery introduced Family, a nursery digital app, to allow parents to be more involved with their children's nursery day. It allows the nursery staff to share photos, observations and insights in real time to enhance and enrich the children's education.



## Ball Skills

On a rainy day, the Dormice had plenty of fun developing their ball skills inside. The physical activity is good for muscle development and hand-eye co-ordination. They worked with PE teacher, Mr Vaughan, trying to catch the ball by wrapping their arms around it and cradling it to their chest.



## Super Shapes

The Badgers and Hedgehogs had great fun working with mathematical resources. Led by Mrs Whitehurst, the children discussed different shapes including circles, triangles, squares, rectangles and hexagons. They spent time naming and describing their properties before sorting the shapes into groups, making patterns with them and they even worked with partners to create their own shapes.



### Christmas Challenge

The Nursery children joined forces with Santa's elves when they wrapped presents and filled stockings with their friends.



### Foot Painting

Foot painting in nursery was a gorgeously messy, creative, sensory, giggly time. It was a fabulous way for the children to explore painting although it was a little squelchy between their toes.



### Creative Sun Catchers

Our Little Crackers love to be creative. Our Badgers and Hedgehogs enjoyed making butterfly sun catchers and then had great fun using the paint rollers to create a backdrop for their display.



### Baking Cookies

Our lovely Little Crackers are a bit batty about baking and always enjoy the chance to measure out the ingredients and carefully mix them in the bowl. Everyone in nursery also enjoys the lovely cooking smells and we hope you enjoy the treats they bring home.



### Sand Skills

We often have the sand tray out for the children to enjoy. Sand play stimulates the senses, allowing children to explore different textures and even temperatures. Sand play also encourages socialising as children work together and it helps develop motor skills.



### Dinosaur Dice

Our Badgers strengthened their knowledge of numbers using the tens frame, a dice and a box of dinosaurs. The children took it in turns to throw the dice and then place the correct number of dinosaurs on the grid. It was a lovely simple game with lots of different opportunities to reinforce numeracy skills.



### Duplo Construction

Duplo bricks are just perfect for creating tall towers, their chunky shape making them easy to connect and handle. Some of our Badgers chose to build independently, supporting each other and taking turns to construct a giant tower. It was so lovely to see them co-operating and working together so well, even when the tower collapsed and they had to start all over again.



### Mother's Day

We celebrated Mother's Day at Little Crackers Nursery with a special Tea Party. We were joined by lots of the mums and the children enthusiastically performed three charming songs. Our lovely Little Crackers excitedly took their mums to the craft and activity tables to show them how to make beautiful spring daffodils and Queen of the Mums crowns.



### Racing Trikes

Outdoor play is an important part of nursery life. Space, fresh air, freedom and time are essential for children's emotional, social and personal well-being. The children love their time outside in our dedicated nursery play area. They go out whatever the weather and always enjoy racing around the track on the trikes.



### Terrific Teeth

The children had teethrific fun learning all about teeth. They sang tooth brushing songs, practised cleaning their teeth, making play dough teeth and learning language related to teeth. We also had toothbrush mathematics that began with simple tasks of counting and sorting.



### Nursery Dinners

After a busy morning in Nursery the children always enjoy sitting down together for lunch. Mealtimes are a sociable occasion with the opportunity for conversation between our youngsters and staff. We always take a self-help approach and encourage the children to feed themselves to develop their independence and fine motor skills.



### Playdough

The children had great fun developing their creative and manipulative skills with the playdough cutters. The playdough table also supports the children's personal, social and emotional development by encouraging them to engage in quieter, calmer and more reflective play.



### Sports Day

On our Sports Day our nursery superstars gave it their all in races, relays and an obstacle course - showing off their energy, enthusiasm, and endless smiles! Everyone lined up eagerly on the Astro to enjoy all the fun.



### Phonics Blending

We love our sound blending and segmenting games which help our Little Crackers develop phonemic awareness - the ability to hear the individual sounds in spoken words. The children work in small groups with Mrs Whitehurst and enjoy identifying, segmenting and then blending sounds.



### Water Play

We often have water play out as part of our continuous provision. Water play is great at improving fine motor skills and helps to develop self-regulation as the children learn to take turns. Here the crocodile family are making the most of the bubbly swamp. The main challenge with water play though, is getting our plastic water aprons on - it's always a proud moment when the children manage to do that for themselves!!



### Father's Day

We welcomed lots of dads and grandads into Little Crackers for a special Father's Day celebration. Our Little Crackers were delighted to welcome everyone and to share with them all their nursery fun. They began by enthusiastically singing *I Love My Daddy* before the children took their visitors off to explore. At the end of the session, the children presented their wonderful dads and grandads with a carefully made Father's Day card.



### Reading Corner

Our nursery children love our Little Crackers Reading Corner, a welcoming space where children can share books with friends, give life to the characters, retell favourite tales and begin their own learning adventure. Our Reading Corner is always a popular choice in our continuous provision with youngsters choosing to settle down and enjoy a wide selection of books.



### Hammers

The children created pictures and patterns with the Tap-A-Shape boards. It's a lovely traditional activity that supports hand eye co-ordination while developing creative talents.



### Nursery Graduation

Our Little Crackers Nursery team organised a very special 'Graduation Ceremony' to celebrate the pre-school group 'moving on' to big school. The ceremony took place in front of their families, and the children were each presented with a little scroll by Mrs Bird. Our Badgers had practised special songs for the occasion and sang them perfectly, they also performed an amusing sketch, helpfully reminding them all what they need to take to school.

# Spiritual

## Blessing of the Stones

In September, we welcomed Father Kevin Hooper into school for our Blessing of the Stones service. Pupils new to the school gathered outside in St Joseph's Prayer Garden where Father Kevin blessed their decorated stones before they were placed in the box underneath the cross.

Each stone represents a member of the Crackley Hall community and together the growing collection of stones provides a lasting legacy of children's time at Crackley Hall School.

Intended as a place for prayer and reflection, our prayer garden is a special location within Crackley Hall's confines offering a peaceful place for students and staff throughout the year.



## Food Bank

As part of our harvest celebrations, we collected donations for the local food bank. We were delighted with the response and with the quantity of donations received. Across the year, each month the classes took turns to bring in donations so we could continue to support this important community endeavour throughout the year.



## Christmas Tree Festival

The 15th annual St Nicholas' Christmas Tree Festival took place in November and Crackley Hall entered a tree on the theme on hope. To mark the Catholic Church's Jubilee year, each pupil wrote a prayer of hope and crafted origami Christmas tree decorations with their prayers.



## One World Week

We marked One World Week in February with an exploration and celebration of our world and its faiths. As part of the week, each class visited a different place of Worship, with pupils learning more about Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, Islam and Sikhism. The children enjoyed learning about different faiths and cultures, and it was wonderful to see them engaged and listening so respectfully. They were amazing ambassadors for our school!



## Holy Land Father Visited Crackley Hall

Father Mamdouh from the Holy Land visited the school and joined us for assembly. Father Mamdouh founded the School of Joy, a school for children of all faiths with learning difficulties located in Palestine. The school is supported by a UK charity 'Friends of the Holy Land' that works to support Christians living in Palestine.



## Skipathon Supported Mary's Meals

In the lead-up to Easter, the Mini Vinnies hosted their annual Skipathon to raise funds for Mary's Meals. Children from Nursery through to Junior 6 had great fun skipping, hopping, and jumping during lunch times. Our dedicated Mini Vinnies Treasurers and Junior 6 leaders (pictured) worked hard to count the sponsorship money and were thrilled to announce that the school had raised an incredible £1,269, money that enabled Mary's Meals to feed 66 children for an entire school year.



## First Reconciliation

In March, the pupils visited St Augustine's Church in Kenilworth for their First Reconciliation.

The service coincided with the Feast Day of the Solemnity of the Lord, a day that commemorates Mary's faithful 'Yes' to God, and Fr Kevin, who led the service, reminded the pupils that they could look to Mary for guidance to remind them of this special occasion.

The service concluded with Fr Kevin presenting each of the candidates with a crucifix, a symbolic gift meant to remind them of the spiritual journey they have begun.



## Crackley Celebrated St Joseph's Day

In March, Crackley Hall celebrated the Feast of St Joseph. Alongside Father Kevin, pupils from Junior 5 led the readings and bidding prayers as we celebrated our school saint. We reflected on the history of the school and thought about the life of St Joseph, whose trade was to shape, build and create. During the Homily, Fr Kevin talked about the many people who look to St Joseph for inspiration and reflected that just as God makes a difference to our lives, St Joseph tried to do that too. We were delighted to be able to welcome a number of former St Joseph Convent School pupils and former Crackley Hall pupils and staff to the mass.



## First Holy Communion

Eight Crackley Hall pupils celebrated their First Holy Communion Mass in May at St Francis of Assisi Church in Kenilworth. The children had prepared for this special day in school, learning about their faith so that they understand what they are committing to. In a joyful and celebratory Eucharist, Father Kevin spoke about the nourishing love of God that would sustain the young communicants throughout their lives. The children 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.



## Grandparents and Parishioners' Tea

Crackley Hall welcomed grandparents and parishioners to school in June for an afternoon cream tea. The guests gathered in the School Hall where alongside their tea, guests were treated to a programme of entertainment. There was plenty of time to chat and pupils enjoyed talking to the older generations as they enjoyed their tea. It was as always, a lovely afternoon thoroughly enjoyed by all.



# Performing Arts

## Foundation Choral Workshop

Crackley Hall welcomed pupils from Crescent School for a fantastic full day of uplifting and inspiring singing. The pupils worked under the guidance of Directors of Music, Susan Olden and Julie Barnes, to prepare and rehearse a mix of choral and solo pieces for an afternoon concert. Their performance included a beautiful performance of Lewis Capaldi's *Someone You Loved*.



## Kenilworth Lights

In the run up to Christmas, Crackley Hall's Choir and Choral Group delivered a delightful medley of magical Christmas carols to help celebrate the Kenilworth Old Town's Lights Switch-On.



## Advent Service

Juniors 5 and 6 led the traditional Christmas Advent Service. Parents, grandparents and friends were welcomed to Crackley Hall for this cornerstone of Crackley Hall's festive calendar.



## Christmas Nativities

Always a highlight of December, this year we enjoyed two nativities and a Christmas show. Junior 2 performed *The Magical Christmas Jigsaw*, it pieced together the magic of Christmas through a special puzzle. The traditional story brought to life beautifully in a celebration of dance and song. Then Reception and Junior 1 snuggled up by the fire for the miracle of the *Nativity*. They brought the story of the very first Christmas wonderfully to life when they performed their simple nativity play, *A King Is Born*. Finally, our Nursery children took to the stage to perform an adorable Nursery Christmas Show. Wearing their Christmas jumpers, wide eyed and with lovely smiles on their faces, they sang all their songs beautifully.





### Performing Arts

In the Lent Term, Crackley Hall held its annual celebration of the performing arts, showcasing the breadth and depth of pupils' musical and dramatic talents.

The KS2 evening show was opened spectacularly by the Musical Theatre Group with a medley from the musical *Annie* and that was followed by 22 performances all sparkling with crisp clear deliveries, fine-tuned fingers and well-rehearsed polish. The evening finished, as it had begun, with the stage packed with performers as the Chamber Choir and Choral Group delivered glorious performances of favourites such as *Viva La Vida*, *Defying Gravity* and *Ain't No Mountain High Enough*.

The KS1 afternoon show was full of showstoppers too. The concert featured music, poetry, song and dance, and parents, family and friends enjoyed the celebration of the talent of our younger pupils.

We were amazed by them all.



### Young Voices

Pupils from Juniors 4, 5 and 6 joined thousands of local school children to sing their hearts out at Young Voices at the Utilita Arena in Birmingham. For everyone involved it was fabulous fun, a celebration of all sorts of music and an experience that will stay with them for a lifetime.



### Foundation Orchestra Workshop

Crackley Hall pupils visited Crescent School in February for an orchestral workshop. Designed to develop and stretch music and performance skills, pupils relished making music, especially in such a big group. They worked hard to prepare two challenging pieces, including *Bright Eyes*. The day finished with a short concert for parents where five soloists also showcased their musical skills.



### The Easter Story

Pupils in Junior 4 and Junior 3 performed *Hosanna*, a simple but dramatic mini-musical that portrayed the intrigue and emotions of the Easter story. Together they delivered a moving production, full of expectation, disappointment and ultimately joy, messages well worth reflecting on as we approached the Easter break.





### Summer Production

Our fantastic summer show was *Treachery At Traitor's Quay*. Everyone 'kept calm and carried on' in this musical mystery that followed the adventures of the five Dawson children evacuated to the coast to stay at the large home of Eggin-Drake, Minister of Information. As always, the performances took place at the Leamington Spa Centre and saw children from Reception through to Junior 6 tread the boards in this story of espionage set in World War 2.

Of course, no show like this could happen without the help of many people. A huge thank you to our wonderful staff for all their hard work, to parents for their fabulous support and most of all to the children who were amazing!



# Residentials

## Junior 3

### PGL Boreatton Park

Junior 3 had a super day trip to PGL Boreatton Park where they took on problem solving and team working challenges that required planning, good communication and quick decision making. They all enjoyed the Sensory Trail where they negotiated a series of obstacles blindfolded and the Giant Swing which was the ultimate test of nerve. We were so proud of how they encouraged and supported each other and made the most of the opportunities.



## Junior 4

### PGL Liddington

Junior 4 had a fabulous time at PGL Liddington. They took part in lots of different activities, from climbing to raft building and even survival sessions where they built shelters and started fires. They showed exceptional resilience and bravery when facing the challenges and created unforgettable memories on their exciting escapade.

## Junior 5

### PGL Boreatton Park

Junior 5 had a fantastic time on their residential trip to PGL Boreatton Park. The children really enjoyed learning new skills through a host of different activities including archery, the giant swing, high ropes, raft building and much more. As well as adventure-packed days the youngsters enjoyed evenings with laser tag, outdoor games and a traditional campfire. They all agreed it was an amazing experience.



## Junior 6

### France

For their residential, Junior 6 travelled to Normandy in France. They explored the D-Day Landing beaches at Arromanches, had a tour of the beautiful basilica in Lisieux, built in honour of St Thérèse, and attended Mass. They also had a busy day in Bayeux where they saw the cathedral, a World War Two Cemetery and the Bayeux Tapestry. They had a day out at the Cerza Safari Park enjoyed plenty of ice cream in the heat and even braved a French supermarket where they put their language skills to good use. They returned to Kenilworth with plenty of happy memories of their Normandy adventures in the beautiful French sunshine. Vous avez été formidables Junior 6!

# Sport

## Football



### U10 ISA Midlands 7-a-side

Our U10 Football team played in the Midlands ISA 7-a-side Football Tournament at Dixie Grammar in September. The boys represented Crackley Hall with pride, showing an outstanding attitude throughout the event. They finished in 5th place overall, out of the 16 teams taking part, having won most of their games and scored many goals. Well done to them all.



### U10 ISA Midlands Girls Football

Our U10 Girls travelled to Dixie Grammar for the ISA Midlands Football tournament. A strong performance in the first round saw the team claim five wins and only one loss. That put the team through to the play offs where in the final where they faced Foundation rivals, Crescent School. Crackley's U10 Girls played strong, awesome football and were unlucky not to score. The match went to extra time and Crackley Hall's U10 Girls came away with an extremely well earned Silver medal.



### U11 ISA Midlands Girls Football

Crackley Hall's U11 Girls played in the ISA Girls' Midlands Football Festival at Dixie Grammar. After the group stage, the girls went forward to the Plate play-offs.

The girls faced Old Vicarage School in the semis where the match finished in a draw. That meant a penalty shootout where Jessie saved the OVS shot, taking Crackley through.

In the Plate final, the girls faced Birchfield School. They went out confident and determined and managed to score quickly. A few minutes later, they took the score to 2-0 and then held off the Birchfield attack until the end. Well done to them all.



### U11 ISA Midlands Football

Crackley Hall's U11s travelled to Kidderminster in November for the ISA Midlands Tournament. Crackley faced fierce competition with a large field of schools taking part in the event. Their first-round pool included 11 teams with the U11s consequently playing 10 group matches but they played outstandingly and qualified for the semi-finals as group winners.

In a tough semi-final, they raced into a 3-0 lead, before conceding two late goals and having to fight to stay in the competition. In the final they faced Foundation rivals, Crescent School. That was another close match, involving two excellent teams. Eventually Crackley's desire to win earned them a 2-0 victory. A truly excellent team performance!



### U11 ISA National Football

The U11 Football team travelled to the home of the England teams, St George's Park, for the U11 ISA National Football. They played brilliantly taking the game to their opponents all day. After a mixed start to their group round matches, they found their form in the afternoon and came away as Bowl champions, an excellent result. We are very proud of them all.



### U11 ISFA Midlands Girls Football

In May, the U11 Girls Football Team took part in the ISFA Midlands tournament. They faced talented footballers from across the region and had the chance to really challenge themselves. The whole team played excellently throughout the competition, narrowly missing out on a place in the semi-final. It was a case of playing extremely well but not quite finishing the many scoring opportunities they created for themselves. We were however really proud of their development as a team.

## Hockey



### U11 ISA National Hockey

Crackley took a team of eight girls to the ISA National Hockey Tournament at the Lee Valley Stadium. After the morning pool games, Crackley went forward to the Trophy competition. The team had good results and worked their way through to the final where they faced Western Green in a closely contested match. Both teams had chances and Crackley had a greater percentage of possession. However, Crackley didn't manage to convert their opportunities and the opposition scored with just a couple of minutes to go. The girls were awarded the Silver medal in the Plate.

## Swimming



### ISA Midlands Swimming Gala

Crackley took a team of 25 swimmers from Juniors 4, 5 and 6 to compete against 32 schools in the ISA Midlands Junior Gala. The children swam 25m in the pool and the races included individual and team relays. Pupils swam superbly and there was a fabulous atmosphere poolside. Individual medals were awarded to Charlotte, Gold in the Year 6 Freestyle, Oscar, Silver in the Year 4 Breaststroke, Charlotte, Bronze in the Year 6 Butterfly and William, Bronze in the Year 4 Backstroke. The Year 6 Girls and the Year 4 Boys and Girls all finished third overall.



## ISA National Swimming Championships

Charlotte in Junior 6, represented the Midlands at ISA National Swimming Championships. As well as swimming in the Year 6 Freestyle where she finished 5th, she also swam in the Medley and Freestyle relay teams helping them to 4th and 6th place overall.

## Rugby



### U9 ISA Midlands Tag Rugby

Crackley Hall played in the U9 ISA Midlands Tag Rugby tournament at Stafford Grammar, finishing fourth out of the 12 teams taking part. Despite the very cold conditions, the team finished second in their pool, then lost by just one point in the semi-final and then again by one point in the third and fourth place play offs. Across the day, the U9s scored lots of tries and their tagging was sensational, resulting in multiple turnovers.



### U10 ISA Midlands Rugby Sevens

Crackley took a team of ten Junior 5s to the ISA Midlands U10 Rugby Sevens Tournament at Market Bosworth RFC. The squad put on a great show, enjoying playing against teams from across the region. They remained unbeaten all day and were delighted to finish top of the table and be presented with the tournament trophy. During the day, the boys played six games and scored over 30 tries. All ten players gave excellent accounts of themselves but impressively remained humble in victory.

## Gymnastics



### ISA Midlands Gymnastics

In January, a team of six gymnasts from Junior 5 and Junior 6 took part in the Midlands ISA Gymnastics against 11 independent schools. Competing in the U11 event, Jessica, Grace, Charlotte, Lexi-Jean, Isabella and Angelica represented Crackley Hall with skill and determination. They performed two voluntary vaults and a set floor routine. Crackley Hall finished in 7th position overall in the team competition with Grace finishing just outside the medals after earning herself joint 4th place in the individual competition.

## Cross Country



### ISA Midlands Cross Country

In January, we took a team of Crackley Hall's fleetest cross country runners to the ISA Midlands Cross Country at Bedstone College. Facing fields of 150-180 runners, our Junior 4, Junior 5 and Junior 6 pupils threw their hearts into their races, demonstrating tenacity and perseverance to complete the course. Four pupils qualified for the ISA National Championships. Congratulations to Junior 4 Otto, Junior 5 Harry and Junior 6s Scarlett and Leo.

## Netball



### U9 ISA Midlands Netball

The U9 Netball team took Silver at the ISA Midlands Netball Tournament in March embracing the opportunity to gain real match experience. The girls were super stars all day, playing with determination and had plenty of learning to take away. They finished fourth overall just missing a medal.



### U10 ISA Midlands Netball

The U10 Netball team travelled to Stafford Prep to play in the ISA U10 Midlands Netball tournament. They had a tremendous start to the day, winning all six games in their pool convincingly. They went through to the semi-finals which they won 6-1. In the final, the girls fought exceptionally hard. They went 1-0 down very quickly, then the opposition scored again. Crackley fought hard and managed to equalise with 3 minutes to go. End to end netball saw each team have the chance to score but their opposition overcame them in the end and Crackley brought home a Silver medal.



### U11 ISA Midlands Netball

The U11 Netball team travelled to Ashley Manor Prep School in Cheltenham to play in the ISA Midlands Netball Tournament. After finishing top of their group, in the knockout rounds Crackley saw off Ashley Manor Prep and Wycliffe to secure a place in the final against Twycross School. The game went from end to end, with neither team managing to score but Twycross finally came out the victors in a highly contested game. The U11 Girls deserved their Silver medals and their place at the national finals.



### U11 ISA National Netball

A very excited U11 netball team travelled to King's High School as one of 28 teams from across the country competing in the ISA U11 National Netball Finals. The girls had seven teams in their pool, so faced six 12-minute games during the morning session. After winning three and losing three closely fought matches they qualified for the afternoon's Shield competition.

In the Shield semi-final, Crackley faced Lingfield College and demonstrated dominance across the court, resulting in a convincing 5-1 win. They then faced Scarisbrick Hall in the Shield final. Despite a tough fight, they lost 5-3 to a well-drilled team, coming away from the tournament with a well-earned Silver medal.

## Cricket



### U11 ISA Midlands Hardball Cricket

Crackley Hall hosted its annual ISA Midlands U11 Hardball Cricket Festival in May welcoming teams from across the Midlands. As well as the A team Crackley also helped to make up a second team, the Midlands Warriors. The quality of play on display was excellent with each school improving not only their cricketing skills, but also their tactical awareness in the 6-a-side format. Crackley topped the table after the morning's group games and went through to the play offs where they saw off Tettenhall College to become Midlands U11 Cricket Champions.



### U11 Girls ISA Midlands Cricket Malvern

Crackley Hall's U11 Girls competed in the ISA Midlands Cricket Tournament.

The girls started with two group games and some fine batting and bowling delivered two super wins. With the team on excellent form, they sailed through the semi-final against Edenhurst Prep School winning by 261 runs to 210 runs. In the final, they faced Malvern St James, where a great team performance saw the girls confidently win 251 runs to 228 runs and finish as ISA Midlands Champions.



### U11 ISA Midlands Kwik Cricket

Crackley Hall took a team to the ISA Midlands U11 Kwik Cricket tournament at Duffield Cricket Club in Derbyshire. The team had a thrilling day and were delighted to finish as runners up overall, second out of the 12 school taking part. It was an outstanding team performance, with everyone contributing with the bat, ball and in the field.

## Athletics



### ISA Midlands Athletics

Crackley Hall took a team of Junior 4, 5 and 6 pupils to Aldersley Sports Village in Wolverhampton. Many of the children put in amazing performances with pupils winning an astounding 16 medals.

Congratulations go to Isabel (J5) who took two Golds in the 70m and 150m sprints, Grace (J6) who took Gold in the High Jump and Scarlett (J6) who took Silver in 600m. All three girls qualified for the Nationals.

Well done also to Junior 4 pupils, Fred – Silver in 60m, Florella – Silver in Throw and George – Bronze in Long Jump, Junior 5 pupils, Harry – Silver in Long Jump and Charlotte – Bronze in Throw, and Junior 6 pupils, Rory – Silver in Long Jump, Ryan – Bronze in 150m, Theo – Bronze in High Jump, Theo – Bronze in Shot Putt and Scarlett – Bronze in 60m, and the J6 Girls and Boys Relay teams who both took Bronze.

Excitingly, the Year 6 Girls and Boys teams both placed first overall helping Crackley Hall's Girls finish first overall and Crackley Hall's Boys come in just behind in overall second place.



### ISA National Athletics

Our Junior 6 national qualifiers missed the athletics finals as they were on their residential trip to France. However, Junior 5, Isabel represented Crackley Hall in the 70m and 150m sprints while, Junior 4, Fred ran the 60m sprint. They had a very successful day at the Alexander Stadium, Isabel claimed two Silver medals in her events while Fred just missed a medal coming home fourth in his sprint. Both athletes were running for the ISA Midlands team and competed against the best young athletes from schools across the country.

## Skiing



### ISA National Ski Championships

Junior 6s Isabella and Ben represented Crackley Hall at the ISA National Skiing at Hemel Hempstead. Both did brilliantly, flying down the slopes like professional racers, showing amazing confidence and determination against stiff competition.

# Sports Days

## Key Stage 1 and Reception Sports Day

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.

Many thanks to Junior 6 for organising all the activities and a huge well done to everyone who took part.



## Key Stage 2 Sports Day

Sports Day was a great day of sport out on the school fields. So much determination 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 out on the field; every child ran in a sprint and every child took part in an individual event and, most importantly, every child had fun.



# Co-curricular

Pupils enjoyed a wide range of co-curricular activities across the school year. On offer were a choice of activities including Choral Group, Chamber Choir, Fencing, Yoga, Chess, Art, Painting and Drawing, Cartoon Drawing, Manga Drawing, Cookery, Spanish, Mandarin, Coding, Hockey, Football, Rugby, Netball, Cross Country Running, Boxing, Forest School, Ballet, Gym, Tennis, Athletics, Karate, Golf, Cricket, Board Games, Move It Shake It, Lego, Sewing, Performance Poetry, Punjabi, pBuzz, Brass Group, Cornet Club, Orchestra and STEAM. Clubs ran across the school year, running before school, at lunchtime and after school. Every year group had plenty to choose from and enjoy. Co-curricular activities provide so many invaluable life lessons, the opportunity to learn new skills, to make friends and all in a fun and relaxed environment.



# Sustainability



## Eco Committee

This year, Crackley Hall School had an Eco Committee who championed sustainability across the school. The children worked together to educate the wider school community on green issues. It included our Junior 6 Environmental Stewards who completed an Environmental Review, that work identified three important areas for the committee to focus on, waste, energy and biodiversity.

### Some of their projects included:

- Three-bin system in the dinner hall for food waste
- Reducing general waste
- Recycling plastic and a plastic pledge
- Planting bulbs to increase biodiversity
- Planting wildflower seeds on the school field
- New additions to the Jubilee Garden

*Eco Committee made a great start and their enthusiasm and motivation was inspiring to us all.*

# PTA News



## What an incredible year it was for our PTA.

Thanks to the amazing generosity and support from the school community, over £15,000 was raised through a variety of fun and engaging events.

The year was packed with exciting events and activities, including:

- Macmillan Coffee Morning
- Welcome Back Event
- Headmaster's Quiz
- Christmas Cards
- Christmas Fair
- Book Sale
- Bingo
- Summer Fair
- Pre-Loved Uniform

Thanks to the support, the PTA was able to fund a wide range of fantastic resources and experiences for the children, including:

- Changing rooms upgrades
- Cricket kit and gymnastics mats
- New playground equipment for early years
- A special Author Day (with hot chocolate treats!)
- Ice cream treats, a school disco, and an Easter hunt
- Microphones for drama productions
- New library books
- Beautiful school murals

*Thank you to everyone who participated, donated and volunteered. Together you made a real difference to school life!*



# 80th Anniversary



**Crackley Hall & St Joseph's School**  
1945 ~ 2025

2025 marked the 80th anniversary of the founding of St Joseph's Convent School the predecessor to Crackley Hall School. St Joseph's Convent School lost its original home in Coventry in the Second World War. Its pupils took refuge at Stoneleigh Abbey but at the end of the war they moved to Crackley Hall here in Kenilworth, where the school has been based ever since.

The anniversary celebrations commenced at our St Joseph's Day Mass on Wednesday 19 March. Father Kevin offered mass for the life of the school, reflecting on the steadfastness of St Joseph and on how he has been honoured and respected for 80 years here at Crackley Hall. During the Homily, Fr Kevin spoke about the long history of the school and the strength of its community and of how the people within that community have strived to make a difference just as St Joseph tried to do. Many former pupils returned to the school to attend the mass.

In July, Crackley Hall School marked the anniversary by planting an oak tree. Oak trees symbolise strength and longevity and traditionally mark 80-year anniversaries so it was only fitting that to mark the school's 80 years the school should plant a tree.





# Crackley Hall School

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## The Class of 2025

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