Headteacher Newsletter

April 2nd 2026- Issue 4



This term has been full of adventures and creativity! Our Robins, Wrens, Sparrows and Finches had a wonderful time at Chester Zoo in January and were full of stories upon their return.

In April we are celebrating 'Earth Day' along with David Attenborough's 100th birthday. The theme is 'Our Power, Our Planet' and we have a day of activities planned from planting to learning about how we can make a difference for ourselves and future generations. Due to the generosity of our community during our Christmas Carol events, we have been able to arrange for a special visitor to come and teach us about habitats and sustainability- a life-like Orangutan called Fito!

I hope that the launch of Tapestry across school has been a welcome addition. We will continue to develop its use to make communication more effective.

There has been weekly communication with the Local Authority regarding the fencing being erected. Planning permission has finally been granted and necessary preparation work has begun ready for installation.

We have postponed the lockdown procedure practise whilst we embed an app called 'Marshal Eye' across school. The 'real-time' safety and incident management app is designed to streamline all emergency incidents (e.g. external threat, medical emergencies) and alerts all staff simultaneously. We will ensure that the lockdown procedure is practised before the end of the academic year and that families are informed before and after the event.

Staffing Updates

I am very sad to be sharing that Mrs Richards will be leaving us at Easter. Over the past 5 ½ years, Mrs Richards has played a vital role in ensuring the smooth and effective running of our school, from overseeing finances and managing facilities, whilst being a welcoming face in our busy office. We wish her all the best for her next chapter and I will share details in due course regarding a new School Business Manager appointment.

Mrs Simpson will also be leaving us at Easter to start her dream role as a substance use advocacy worker. Mrs Simpson has had such a positive impact within her short time in Early Years and we wish her lots of luck in her new job.

I am delighted to share that Miss Duke will be joining us after Easter as our new Children's Welfare Officer. Miss Duke brings valuable experience in supporting children and families and will play a key role in promoting pupil wellbeing, safeguarding and will be working closely with families to ensure that every child feels safe and supported. This is a new role at Crossgates and I look forward to the positive contribution Miss Duke will make to our school community.

Thank you to those families who have been affected by staff absence, your patience and understanding have been very much appreciated. I will keep you updated as I know more. Our priority is trying to give the children consistency whilst keeping our safeguarding and SEND offer robust.

Our School Council have been working incredibly hard and have developed a children's anti-bullying policy; you can find this on the school website along with the version for adults to access. The School Council's impressive fundraising efforts are enabling us to have a school pond installed in our Forest School area! We are so excited to be able to extend our curriculum offer with our very own pond. Thank you as always for your generosity.

I would like to share my gratitude to those who have given their own time to either join our Friends and Families of Crossgates (PTA) or our Parent Forum. Both roles strengthen our community considerably; we are stronger together and we value your support.

I hope that those who were able to attend 'The Spring Show' to see our Year 4 and 5 children perform enjoyed it. It has been truly wonderful to see some of our more reluctant performers develop confidence over time and, of course, to see our budding actors shine. The aim of performance within the curriculum is to develop oracy skills, self-esteem, creativity and expression. Our children did just that and we are immensely proud of them.

You may have seen our collaboration with Loveartpix (neurodivergent artist) on our Instagram page (please use the QR code to follow our page if you do not already do so). This partnership has really supported some of our children with developing an understanding of themselves, their strengths and what makes them unique. Loveartpix will be continuing to work with us throughout the summer term and the new academic year. This collaboration will extend to different year groups and to us linking up with the Community Rail Network to create artwork for a local train station, community gardens and to develop our safeguarding offer.

We have a busy term coming up. Please do refer to the 'Summer Unit Planner' for your child's year group as this gives you all of the dates and information that you need. These are also available on the school website: https://www.crossgates.rochdale.sch.uk/Letters/

I do hope that you will be able to join us for different events that are in the calendar.

Well done to all those who entered our Easter bonnet and egg competition. What impressive entries!

Our School Council will give an update on winners very soon.

Staffing cont:

I am delighted to share that Miss Bolton has been successful in achieving the NPQSENCo qualification; this enables her to continue to drive our SEND offer forward in Mrs McMahon's absence. We hope to welcome Mrs McMahon back soon but whilst she is off, please contact Miss Bolton via the school office regarding any queries about SEND.

Mrs Dry is now a Level 3 Forest School Lead! This is a huge achievement and I am so incredibly pleased that we are able to offer quality Forest School sessions for our children.

We will be welcoming Mr Couldridge onto the Senior Leadership Team after Easter on a temporary secondment. Mr Couldridge is an experienced leader and will be at Crossgates for 3 days a week to support with driving curriculum standards across school and to build capacity within the Senior Leadership Team.

Parking

Parking continues to be a significant issue around school. I receive daily concerns from the local community regarding parking over driveways, blocking pavements and aggression from individuals. Please be considerate when parking.



@WEARECROSSGATES





I hope that you all have a wonderful Easter break and I look forward to seeing you all back in school on April 20th

Mrs Mitchell