Headteacher Newsletter

July 17th 2026- Issue 5



A note from me...

As we reach the end of another busy and incredibly rewarding academic year, I want to take a moment to reflect on everything we have achieved together. It has been a year filled with laughter, learning, and growth, and I could not be prouder of our school community.

Below, we celebrate some of this year's brightest highlights, share our heartfelt thanks, and say a special farewell to some very important members of our Crossgates family.

First of all I need to say a heartfelt thank you and good luck to our staff who are leaving us for pastures new in September: Mr Patterson who has been Assistant Headteacher at Crossgates for over 5 years is joining a school closer to home alongside setting up a family business, we say 'au revoir' to Mrs Hanson and wish her well for her next chapter, we are also sad to say goodbye to Mrs Millington who is retiring after dedicating many years to our children and finally we say, what is hopefully a temporary, goodbye to Mrs McIntosh who is moving on to train to be a teacher.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our marvellous PTA- 'Families and Friends of Crossgates'. Through their brilliant organisation of seasonal events, they have not only raised vital funds to enrich our children's learning experience but have also brought our community closer together. To everyone who has been involved, thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Carnival Capers

What a magical time we had at Milnrow Carnival on a sunny Saturday in June! Bathed in glorious sunshine (a pleasant surprise after last year's rain) the streets were full of smiles, colour and laughter as our school community came together to represent Crossgates. It was heartwarming to see so many families spending time together; with our children making memories that will last long after the day itself. Events like these remind us of our community spirit, and we are incredibly grateful to everyone who gave their time, energy and support to make this year's Disney-themed carnival such a memorable success.

Transition

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend our art transition session this year. Feedback from our children is that this session helps them to feel more comfortable about September.

You will now find a transition booklet for every class on the school website. Please go to to the 'Information for Families' tab and scroll down to 'Transition at Crossgates'.

Our School Values

Every week, our children all join together for our 'Values Assembly' where individuals are recognised for demonstrating one of our values. This event is wonderful to witness and our current record for the highest number of values certificates in one week is 42 children! When children have gained all 4 values certificates, they then achieve their 'Values Star' badge. Well done to all 130 of the children who have gained their badge this year and thank you for demonstrating our Crossgates Values so well.

Our children have enjoyed many trips this year: Robinwood, Martin Mere Wetlands Centre, Chester Zoo, library visits, Rochdale Town Hall and Hollingworth Lake to name a few. Next year, we will be continuing to develop our trips and enrichment offer at Crossgates and I look forward to sharing the results with you.

We are dedicated to continuously strengthening our inclusion support, and we hope you have felt the positive impact of the changes we introduced in January 2026. At the start of the year, we refined our procedures to ensure that all queries, referrals, and support are delivered promptly, transparently, and with a compassionate, family-focused approach. As we continue to evolve our support, your partnership remains invaluable. If you would like to discuss any aspect of SEND, please contact Miss Bolton (Assistant Head and NPQ SENCo) via the school office.

We are having a bit of a move around in September! To ensure our school environment truly meets the needs of every child, we are making some adjustments to our classroom layout. We are moving our Year 2 and Year 3 classes into the main building, which will allow our younger children to benefit from play-based provision and outdoor learning as a key part of their transition. Consequently, this move will provide our older pupils with a dedicated learning space of their own, protecting their classrooms from the frequent interruptions of younger children walking through our open-plan building. We believe these tailored spaces will create a calmer, more effective learning experience for everyone. Please find the classroom location information below- we will ensure that classrooms are labelled as much as possible for the return to school in September.

We have regulation-height fencing!! The fencing will be completed over the summer holidays along with the resurfacing of the car park. I have no doubt that there will be a few teething problems as we get used to new gates for entry in September but Mr Sloan and I will be navigating this alongside everyone and supporting you in getting to where you need to be. Thank you for your support as we implemented our lockdown practise on July 7th. The children were incredibly sensible and mature and returned to their learning afterwards seamlessly- they never cease to make me proud.

Finally, we turn our attention to our fantastic Year 6 class. This week marks the end of their primary school journey as they prepare to take their next big step into high school. Year 6, you have been absolute role models. You have shown resilience, kindness, and a wonderful sense of humour, especially during the challenges of transition. As you move on to your new schools, remember the values you have learned here at Crossgates; continue to be kind, work hard, and always believe in yourselves. You will always be a part of our school family, and we cannot wait to hear about all the amazing things you will go on to achieve.

I hope you all enjoy a safe, happy and restful summer break and I look forward to welcoming everyone back for another exciting year ahead on **September 3rd 2026.**

Reasonable Adjustments for Families

We understand that school environments can sometimes feel a little bit daunting, and we know this can be especially true for parents and carers who have additional needs themselves.

Your comfort, confidence, and voice are incredibly important to us. If there are any adjustments we can make to our meetings to help you to feel more at ease, such as: holding them in a quieter space, sharing information beforehand, or simply ensuring that a soft drink is on hand, please let us know.

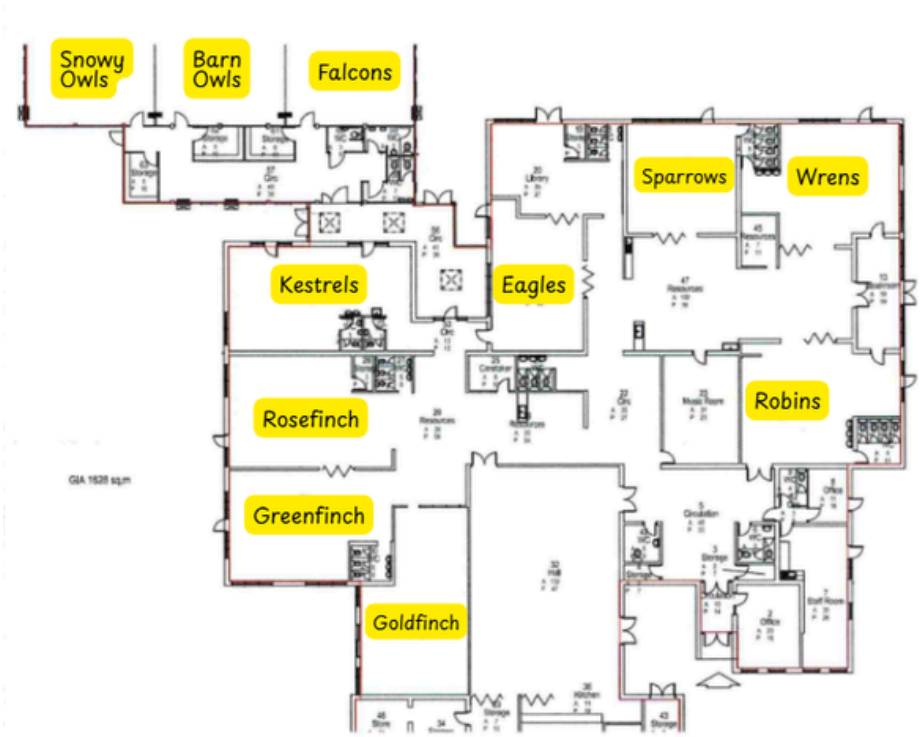
We are always happy to adapt, and we will do absolutely everything we can to ensure that you feel welcome, supported, and heard every step of the way.

Inclusive Attendance

At Crossgates, we know that regular attendance is the absolute foundation for your child's happiness, social development, and academic success.

To ensure every pupil gets the most out of their time with us, our Children's Welfare Officer, Miss Duke, works hand-in-hand with families to provide dedicated attendance support. Whether you are navigating tricky morning routines, managing school anxiety, or facing external challenges, Miss Duke offers a compassionate, collaborative, and non-judgmental approach to help to break down those barriers.

We firmly believe that working in partnership with parents is the best way to ensure that every child feels confident and ready to learn. If you feel your family could benefit from some extra support or just a friendly chat about school routines, please don't hesitate to reach out to Miss Duke via the school office.



Class	Year	Teacher	Classroom
Robins	Reception	Miss Burke	Classroom has not changed
Wrens	Reception/Year 1	Mrs Edwards (4 days) and Mrs James (1	Classroom has not changed
Sparrows	Year 1	Mrs Berry (4 days) and Mrs James (1 day)	Classroom has not changed
Goldfinch	Year 2	Miss Mamman	Used to be Eagles
Greenfinch	Year 2/3	Mrs Farnsworth	Used to be Kestrels
Rosefinch	Year 3	Mrs Whittaker	Used to be Falcons
Eagles	Year 4	Mrs Ellis-Radahd	Used to be Snowy Owls
Kestrels	Year 4/5	Mrs Kapler	Used to be Barn Owls
Falcons	Year 5	Mrs Clayton	Used to be Rosefinch
Barn Owls	Year 6	Miss Bolton	Used to be Goldfinch
Snowy Owls	Year 6	Mrs Hall	Used to be Greenfinch