



CROOK LOG NEWS



Believe in a brighter future

The Year 6 children started the term off with a visit to the Imperial War Museum as part of their history work. The Imperial War Museum is the world's leading museum on war and conflict. It describes the extraordinary experiences of ordinary people forced to live in a world torn apart by war and conflict. The children enjoyed looking around the museum and measuring themselves to find out if they would have been tall enough to fight in the war. They were very interested in looking at the Anderson shelters and models of the 1940's houses. The children behaved beautifully and were a credit to Crook Log.



Our Year 6 children took part in a Careers Day where ex- Crook Log pupils return to Crook Log to talk to the year 6 children about their chosen careers and to inspire the children to believe that if they work hard in school, that anything is possible to achieve. This year the children had talks from a Police Officer, a Barber, a Data Scientist, a Casting Director of TV and film, an Artist, a Legal Personal Assistant and a Graphic Designer. The children found the talks inspirational and took part in some interesting discussions asking thoughtful questions.

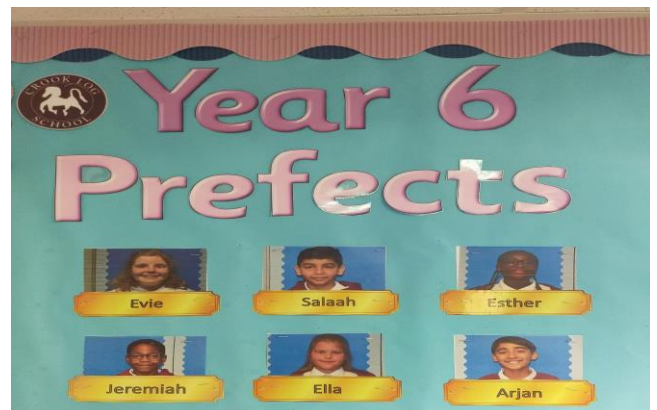
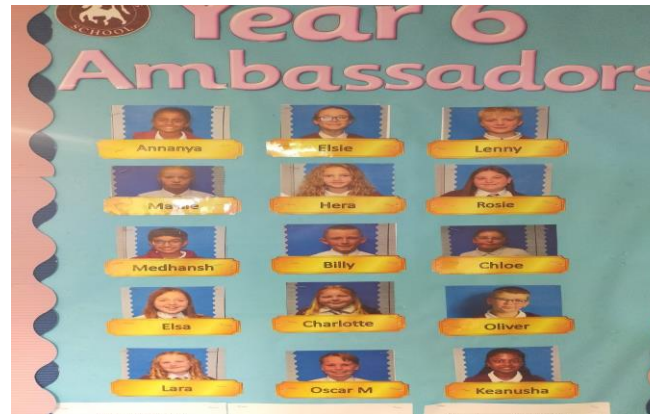
Following the discussions, the children took part in workshops back in their classrooms designing a book cover with the Graphic Designer and auditioning for a part in a Harry Potter film with the Casting Director. The children thoroughly enjoyed the workshops and learnt a lot about the careers.



We held our annual Harvest Festival in October and made our Harvest boxes which we filled with food donations. This year we sent half of our donations to Bexley Food Bank and kept the rest for our school food bank. Thank you to everyone that generously donated. Bexley Food Bank were very grateful for all of our donations.



This year we had over 32 children from year 6 children apply to become Ambassadors and Prefects. The children all had to complete an application form and be interviewed for their roles stating why they should be given the job and what qualities they could bring to the role. After a very vigorous process 15 children were chosen to be Ambassadors and 8 children were chosen to be prefects. Congratulations to everyone that applied and were successful.



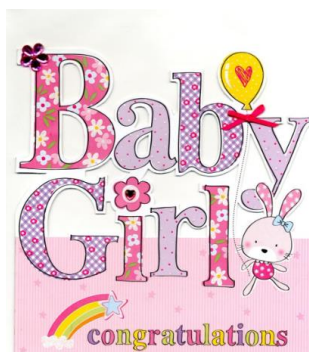
We had a fabulous time taking part in fun workshops with Ian from Kic Theatre who really helps to bring our topics alive through the art of drama.



To start the year off, FOCLS held a fantastic cinema night in the school hall. The children all received some pop corn and a drink and watched the new Despicable Me 4 film. It was our biggest attended cinema night yet and all the children behaved beautifully and thoroughly enjoyed the movie. Thank you to FOCLS for organising the event. We raised **£593.92**



Huge congratulations to Mrs Harris who gave birth to a beautiful baby girl on 26th September. We look forward to meeting her soon.



Year 5 held the first fundraising event of the year by holding a coffee morning on Friday 4th October. This event was to raise money to put towards the cost of the year 5 school journey to the Isle of Wight which takes place in June 2025.

Thank you to all the year 5 parents that made or donated delicious cakes for the event. It was lovely to see the children and parents mingling together, eating cake and drinking tea and coffee. The year 5 children raised **£365** towards their school journey costs.



Congratulations to Miss Caswell who got married over the summer and is now known as Mrs McGinn and congratulations to Miss McGarry who has recently also got married and will now be known as Mrs Green.



We said a sad farewell to Mrs Child and to Mrs Sieglar who both retired at the end of last term after working at Crook Log for a very long time. We wish them lots of happiness and good health in their retirements.



We have welcomed some new staff to our school after the summer break.

Miss Cornell- Teacher in 2 Badger

Mr Thurston- Teacher in 5 Birch

Mrs Carr- Office Manager

We have also now successfully taken over the running of our own Breakfast and After School Club which has been named 'Cloggy Corner.' A big thank you to all the parents and carers that have donated toys and games for it. The club is now very well stocked with games and resources but we will be adding to the outdoor area as soon as we have sufficient funds.

Please note that the club is very popular and is currently full but if you would like to join the waiting list please email

admin@crooklog.bexley.sch.uk



We aim for 100% attendance every day! Holidays in term time will not be authorised.



On Friday 18th October, Miss Metcalfe had a very productive day with a wonderful group of parent volunteers clearing all of the reeds from our overgrown school pond. It was a mammoth task that really needed to be completed before the weather turned colder. Thank you to all the parents that volunteered to help, we appreciate everyone that gave up their time to join the working party.

The pond now looks amazing and is finished off with a wonderful new bridge that has been kindly built by Mr Bonnewell, father to Jarrod, Dylan and Ellis. The Veterans Club paid half towards the cost of the bridge which we are very grateful to them for.

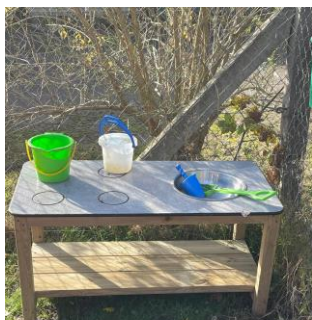
This means that the children can now safely use the pond moving forward in the warmer months and can start pond dipping again as part of our science lessons.



Year 6 loved their trip to Hall place to learn all about Secret Operation Ultra!

On arrival at Hall Place they were all given an identity card of one of the American soldiers that lived and worked there during WWII. They learnt all about these men as they took a tour around the house looking at physical evidence, rare archive photographs and personal accounts. The children even got to see the bunk beds that they had to sleep in!

After the tour, the children ate lunch and then created their own super-secret mission, Codename Santa Fe. Just like the Americans based at Hall Place they were given the opportunity to construct and decipher messages using Morse Code and a Tate's Disk (which they got to keep). Year 6 really loved learning about our local history and knowing that real American GI's used Bexleyheath library to borrow books just like they do now.



THANK YOU!

Thank you to Mr Ogniev, father to Asckold, Teameya and Teana who has kindly built Cloggy Corner a wonderful new mud kitchen and some building blocks for their outdoor area. The children absolutely love playing with them.

FOCLS organised another wonderful spooky pumpkin party. The children had a brilliant time dressed in their spooky costumes. There were lots of stalls for the children to buy sweets, drinks, crisps, hotdogs, glitter tattoos and glow toys. Thank you to everyone that helped make the disco so much fun for all the children. We raised £1460.



We are very proud that Crook Log Primary School has been awarded the Schools Music Mark for a second year running. This shows that we are recognised for ensuring that our students have access to high quality music education that is delivered in a broad and balanced curriculum. Congratulations to Miss Parkes for all her efforts in ensuring that music has a high profile at Crook Log and for given our children opportunities to learn a wide range of instruments.



Crook Log has also been awarded the Eco- Schools' Green Flag award. Mrs Swain has worked with the Eco-Warriors across the school to carry out an environmental review across the school which they then wrote a school action plan with links to the curriculum and have written a school Eco-code. The Eco- Warriors inspire us all every day to live a more sustainable life.



Just before we broke up for half term we had a whole school fancy dress day to raise money to put towards each classes next school trip. It was such a fun day. There were so many different costumes on display around the school and a real buzz of excitement. Well done to everyone but especially to year 3 who raised the largest amount of **£139** to put towards their next trip. Overall in total, we raised **£637.51** to go towards school trips. Thank you for all your contributions no matter how big or small.



Year 5 held their second fundraising event of the year by taking part in a sponsored walk around the lake at Danson Park. This money raised was to put towards the cost of the year 5 school journey to the Isle of Wight which takes place in June 2025. The children really enjoyed their walk and raised **£1253** towards their school journey costs.



What a fantastic firework event we had! Over 600 people attended our fireworks and had a brilliant time. Thank you to the staff, FOCLS and all of the wonderful helpers from the Guy Earl of Warwick pub who helped to run the bar and to Mr Hollidge for being our top chef on the barbecue. We have raised **£3044.81**.



We look forward to doing it all again next year.

Year 6 children came to school dressed as evacuees to celebrate the end of their World War II topic. The children put on a very moving Remembrance Day assembly where they read out work based on the book 'Goodnight Mister Tom' and read the poem 'Flanders Field'. The children sang beautifully and spoke clearly throughout the assembly. They should be very proud of their moving performances. When the assembly had finished the year 6 children took part in other fun activities, including some war time cooking.



FOCLS had a very successful tuck shop sale after school on Friday 8th November.

They raised another **£110.63**

Thank you to all of the FOCLS helpers. We love the tuck shop.



On Wednesday 20th November we held another cinema night, this time for our youngest children. The children thoroughly enjoyed watching Minions and more in the hall while munching popcorn and having a drink with their friends. Thank you to all the FOCLS helpers. It raised **£296.33**



Crook Log hosted its second Comedy Night on 26th November to raise money towards the Year 5 school journey costs. It was another absolutely incredible evening. The fabulous Tom Toal (Elsa's dad) acted as compere for the evening and kept everyone in check. Mark Simmons, Fiona Allen, Ian Smith all big stars on the comedy circuit performed hilarious stand-up routines which had the audience laughing in their seats. They were followed by the headline act, who was no other than the amazing Troy Hawke, who had just finished a world tour to perform at our school. All the comedians were fabulous and especially loved the huge geckos on the hall walls. Who knew when the children made them that they would be so amusing! Huge thanks go to all the Year 5 parents that helped with the event and ran the bar. Special thanks must go to Anna Toal for booking the comedians, organising the event, arranging the fantastic raffle prizes and for transforming the school hall. We raised **£2741** which is phenomenal! It really was a Crook Log night to remember.

FOCLS organised a book fair at school on Friday 22nd November. Every child was asked to bring in a pre-loved book to sell at the book fair and bring 50p in to purchase a new book from the stall.

The book fair raised **£230.05**



Troy Hawke



Fiona Allen



Mark Simmons



Ian Smith

On Friday 13th December, we held our annual Christmas Fayre. It was a fantastic success. Santa was in his grotto greeting excited children, the barbecue was sizzling and mulled wine bubbling with children singing carols around the tree. There were plenty of stalls to keep everyone busy including making reindeer food, pin the nose on Rudolph, the bottle tombola, decorating biscuits and face painting. We had a fantastic raffle with some amazing prizes to be won. Thank you to Mrs Green, FOCLS and everyone that helped by donating prizes or their time to help. We look forward to finding out how much we raised soon.



Thank you to everyone that has kindly donated towards the Salvation Army's Christmas Present Appeal. Through your generosity, a child who might miss out on a present this Christmas will have the joy of opening a gift. A big thank you as always for all your support.



Christmas dinner in school was such fun. Mrs Barratt, Mrs Hollidge and lots of staff put on their Christmas hats and served the children their Christmas dinner. There was a fantastic atmosphere in the hall with music playing and everyone eating happily together. Thank you to Independent Catering for cooking a splendid Christmas dinner.



Year 5 held a tasty Christmas treat sale after school on Wednesday 11th December. Despite being a soggy cold afternoon, it was a huge success. Treats included: chocolate Christmas trees, Christmas pudding biscuits, melted snowman biscuits and candy canes. The year 5 children had worked really hard to make all the treats and raised £134 towards their school journey costs.



Cloggy Corner had an unexpected visit from the Bexley Food Standards Agency and we are very pleased to announce that they received the highest grade possible, a 5!

Well done to all the staff at Cloggy Corner.





We ended the term with our annual Christmas Carol concert, which took place at Christ Church in Bexleyheath. The children's enthusiasm and joy brought new life to the traditional carols. It is always such a heart-warming occasion listening to the beautiful harmonies in the historic and peaceful setting of the church- a true reminder of the wonder of the Christmas season.

Despite the Demelza Hospice not turning up and a series of unfortunate events occurring the Cloggy choir performed to a large group of parents and supporters in the Broadway. With infectious energy and a sense of purpose, the children sang a selection of Christmas songs. The children's participation in this event was a shining example of how the spirit of Christmas can be shared, not only through song but also through the generosity of a compassionate community who patiently waited for us to overcome our speaker issues and to sing.

Well done to Miss Parkes and the Cloggy choir who all sang beautifully.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

What a busy term it has been! Thank you to you all for your ongoing support with donations for our food bank, this will continue in the New Year. We would like to wish everyone a very happy and healthy Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all back safe and well on **9th January 2024.**

Mrs Barratt and Mrs Hollidge

Key stage one staff and children put on a fabulous Christmas Nativity show titled 'Christmas Inside out. The children all danced, acted and sang with enthusiasm. Thank you to Mr Bergamo for organising and directing the play and to all the infant staff for teaching the children their dances and lines. Thank you to parents and carers for providing your children with their beautiful costumes. They were a joy to watch and definitely made us smile and feel very Christmassy. Well done Key stage one!



Diary Dates:

6th January - INSET Day

(School closed to Children)

7th January - Children back to school

14th January - Prospective parents viewing

22nd January- Individual photographs

28th January - Year 4 History workshop

4th February - Young Voices concert

14th February- Year 3 Roman Day

17th February- **Half Term**

24th February- Children back to school

12th March- KIC Theatre

1st April- Rock Steady concert

4th April- End of term

22nd April- Children back to school