



CROOK LOG NEWS



Believe in a brighter future

We are excited to introduce two brand new sports clubs this term – Laser Tag and Cheerleading – and they have been a huge hit with our pupils! Both clubs are already fully booked for this half term due to their popularity. If your child is interested in joining either club, they can be added to the waiting list. Please contact Mrs Green for more information.



Year 5 had a fantastic time learning to kayak at Danson Park Lake. The experience was made even more special by being taught by two former Crook Log pupils who now represent England in kayaking! Their expert coaching and inspiring journey showed our pupils what's possible with hard work and passion. From nervous first paddles to confident glides across the water, the children developed not only their kayaking skills but also their confidence, teamwork, and resilience. Thank you to Mrs Green and Mr Thurston for giving Year 5 this wonderful experience.



Happy Retirement

*Congratulations
on Your
Wedding...*

Congratulations to Miss Parkes who got married during the summer break. We wish her and her husband lots of happiness for the future together.

We said a sad farewell to Mrs Harding who retired at the end of last term after working at Crook Log for a very long time. We wish her lots of happiness and good health in her retirement.



We are a mobile-free school and kindly ask that all visitors support our policy by keeping phones out of sight while on school grounds, including the playground. This is an important part of our safeguarding approach to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all our children.

After the disappointment of the year 5 school journey being postponed last year due to reasons out of our control, Year 6 finally went to Dorset and had a brilliant week at PGL, filled with adventure, laughter, and unforgettable memories. The children took part in a wide range of exciting activities, including raft building, high ropes, the thrilling 3G swing, and kayaking. They challenged themselves, supported one another, and showed great teamwork and resilience throughout the week. It was a fantastic way to celebrate their final year at primary school and create lasting memories with their friends. Thank you to Miss Higgins for organising the trip and to all the staff that accompanied them. They all had such a wonderful week.



Year 6 recently visited the Imperial War Museum, where they explored powerful and thought-provoking exhibits that told the extraordinary stories of families living through war and conflict. The visit offered a deep and moving insight into the impact of war on everyday lives, helping the children to connect with history in a meaningful way. Throughout the trip, the children showed impeccable behaviour, demonstrating great respect, curiosity, and maturity. Thank you to Miss Parkes and Mrs Hall for arranging the trip.



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 26 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 14 children were chosen to be Ambassadors and 12 children were chosen to be prefects. Congratulations to everyone that applied and were successful. Look out for our new Ambassadors on the gates in the morning.





Year 6 recently took part in an exciting **Careers Fair** designed to inspire them to think about the many jobs and opportunities available when they are older. The event encouraged everyone to live by our school motto – “*Believe in a brighter future*”. This year, pupils had the chance to hear from a fantastic range of visitors, including a **Dog Groomer, Social Worker, IT Support, Chartered Structural Engineer, Police Officers, Influencer/ Artist and a trainee Primary School Teacher**. Each speaker shared their personal career journeys, offering valuable insights into their daily work and the skills required in their professions.

The children listened intently, asked thoughtful and engaging questions, and were even treated to a live dog grooming demonstration! A huge **thank you** to all our visitors for giving up their time to speak with our pupils and for helping to open their eyes to the wide range of exciting careers that could await them—if they continue to work hard and believe in themselves.

Year 5 held their first fundraising event of the year—a coffee morning, raffle, and biscuit decorating session to raise money for their upcoming school journey to the Isle of Wight. It was a massive success and saw the largest number of parents attending any event so far! A big **thank you** to all the parents who donated cakes and came along to support us. Your generosity and enthusiasm helped make the morning such a fantastic community event.

We’re thrilled to announce that we raised a whopping **£593.18!** Every penny will go towards making the Isle of Wight trip a memorable experience for our Year 5 pupils.



We were lucky to welcome Ian from the KIC Theatre Company into school this term, where he delivered engaging drama workshops for children in Years 1 to 5. Ian has a fantastic ability to bring topics to life through the art of drama, making learning truly memorable.

The workshops explored a range of curriculum topics, including the Stone Age, the Vikings, the rainforest, animal lifecycles, and the story of *Funnybones*. Each session was carefully tailored to the age group and theme, encouraging creativity, imagination, and active participation.

The children were fully engaged and thoroughly enjoyed the experience—thank you, Ian, for inspiring our young learners!



To start the year off, FOCLS held a fantastic cinema night in the school hall for years 2-6. The children all had the option to receive some pop corn, hot dog, sweets and a drink and watch the K Pop Demon Hunters. It was a very popular event and all the children behaved beautifully and thoroughly enjoyed the movie. Thank you to FOCLS for organising the event. We raised **£678.20**



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.



Year 1 and Year 2 were lucky to receive a special visit from PC Neil from the Metropolitan Police, who came in to introduce himself and talk to the children about the important role the police play in our community.

PC Neil brought along an old-fashioned police car, which the children were thrilled to see up close. He also showcased a range of police uniforms and equipment, which the children were very excited to try on!

As part of the visit, PC Neil spoke to the children about what to do in an emergency. They even had the chance to role-play dialling 999 and practise giving their details—a valuable and engaging learning experience.

A big thank you to PC Neil for visiting us and providing an interactive session.



We aim for 100% attendance each day.

Holidays in term time will not be authorised.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to our wonderful FOCLS Team who have raised an **amazing** amount of money this term for school:

Tuck Shop- **£69.99**
Cinema Night- **£678.20**
Clothes Bank- **£82.80**
Easy fundraising- **£203.64**
School Lottery- **£501.60**
Pumpkin Party- **£1578.66**
Fireworks- **£3996.06**
Donut Sales- **£372.66**
Book Sale- **£294.16**
Wreath making- **£60.27**
Present room- **£628.16**
Christmas fair- **Waiting total**

GRAND TOTAL- £8466.20



On 17th October, the school was filled with frightfully fun hairstyles as the children arrived with spooky hair to help raise money for class trips. From cobwebs and creepy crawlies to wild colours and eerie designs, the creativity on display was fantastic!

A huge thank you to all the parents and carers for your support in making this event such a success. Your contributions are helping us provide memorable experiences for the children through upcoming class trips.

Mr Ognieva — Asckold, Teameya and Teana's father — has kindly made us some more building blocks for the children to play with on the playground at playtime. The children use their imaginations to build all sorts of exciting creations with the blocks. They love making assault courses, racing cars, bridges, and even climbing or sitting on them. We now have blocks on all our playgrounds and in Cloggy Corner, and the children are becoming experts at stacking them away super quickly at the end of playtime. Thank you to Mr Ognieva for taking the time to make them for us.



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 **£1578.66**



We are delighted to announce that, thanks to the hard work of Mrs. Swain and our Eco-Warriors, our school has once again been awarded the **Green Flag Award for 2025–2026**.

This prestigious recognition celebrates our ongoing commitment to **sustainability** and **environmental learning**, and we are proud of everyone's efforts in helping to make our school a greener, more eco-friendly place.



MAGIC BOOKINGS at Cloggy Corner

The new Cloggy Corner booking system is now live and available for parents to book **Breakfast and After School Club** sessions for the **3rd November onwards**.

To get started, please visit:

<https://crooklog.magicbooking.co.uk>

Log in using the email address registered with the school, and click '**Reset Password**' to set up your account.

As part of their Religious Education learning, Year 2 visited Christ Church in Bexleyheath to meet Reverend Trevor and to discover how the church gives thanks at Harvest time. Reverend Trevor shared lots of interesting information about the church, and the children had the opportunity to explore the building, looking closely at the beautiful windows and special artefacts. The children were wonderfully behaved and showed great respect throughout their visit. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the trip and learned a lot about how Christians celebrate Harvest.



On Wednesday 15th October, a wonderful team of volunteers came into school to transform our allotment area. They spent time sweeping, clearing rubbish, and weeding all the beds to prepare them for our Crook Log Gardening Club to begin planting. We are so grateful to them for giving up their time to volunteer as part of our working party. A huge thank you to each and every one of them for their hard work and enthusiasm!



The first FOCLS donut sale was a big success and raised **£372.66**

FIREWORKS

To mark the end of our half-term break, we held a fantastic fireworks event for our school community. The evening was a huge success, with families enjoying delicious hot dogs and pizzas while the children had fun playing a range of games and activities in the dance studio. There was face painting, plenty of glow toys to purchase, and a wonderful atmosphere all around. The fireworks display was truly spectacular, and everyone had a lovely evening together!

Thank you to Mrs Green and to FOCLS for organising such a fabulous event and for all the staff and volunteers for helping out. These events could not happen without such volunteers giving up their time to support our school.



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 showed their art work. 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.



Some of our Year 5 and Year 6 girls were lucky enough to be invited to attend a Tag Rugby Festival with other Bexley primary schools at Old Dartfordians Rugby Club. They enjoyed a fun-filled afternoon playing matches against a range of teams and demonstrated fantastic teamwork and sportsmanship throughout. A big thank you to Miss Parkes and Peter for accompanying them. The girls were a real credit to the school!





The Crook Log school football team have recently joined the Goals school league and have won their first match 5-1 against Danson Primary School.

A huge well done to everyone that played.

The Year 6 Ambassadors completed some mental health Training with the MHST Team in order to gain a greater understanding and awareness of mental health conditions and how to help younger children who may need some support with their fears and worries or anxieties on the playground. The children listened beautifully and asked some really sensible questions. They learnt grounding techniques, practised breathing exercises and learnt new games and strategies to use on the playground.



FOCLS organised a book fair at school on Friday 21st 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 **£294.16**



Lunch time Wellbeing club has started up again and is being run by Mrs Cullinane and some year 6 Ambassadors. It is a very popular club where the children take part in a range of activities including: yoga, meditation, Lego and mindfulness colouring or quiet games.

Year 6 enjoyed a fascinating visit to the National Portrait Gallery, where they explored the extensive collection of paintings. The children were very sensible as they walked around the gallery, taking in the atmosphere and studying the portraits carefully. The Gallery tells the story of Britain through art, using portraits to bring history to life and help us explore what it means to live in Britain today. The children were surprised by the size of some of the portraits.



As part of their science topic, Year 4 had a visit from a dentist from the Bexleyheath Dental Practice, who spoke to them about the importance of looking after their teeth and maintaining good dental hygiene. The dentist discussed healthy and unhealthy foods, the dangers of eating sugary snacks, and the damage sugar can cause to teeth.

She modelled how to clean teeth by dividing the mouth into four quadrants, and she also demonstrated how to floss properly. The children asked many thoughtful questions, which the dentist answered clearly and helpfully.

Before leaving, the dentist set them a challenge to brush their teeth twice a day and gave each child a sample of toothpaste to take home.



Mrs Harris has started working with the School Council and the whole school towards becoming a Rights Respecting School. She introduced the award during an assembly, explaining children's rights and what each article means.

At Crook Log, we value the rights of children and believe that their voices should be heard. We look forward to continuing our work towards achieving this award.



Thank you to everyone that has kindly donated towards the Salvation Army's Christmas Present Toy 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.



On Friday 5th 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 nail 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.



Christmas dinner in school was such fun. Mrs Barratt 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.



On Friday 28th November, a group of parents got into the Christmassy spirit by taking part in a fantastic wreath-making session organised by FOCLS. They enjoyed mulled wine and mince pies while chatting and creating the most beautiful Christmas wreaths.



The Mayor of Bexley visited Crook Log to celebrate the planting of several new trees on the school grounds. The trees were generously donated by the Bexley Rotary Club as part of its ongoing commitment to supporting green spaces and environmental education.

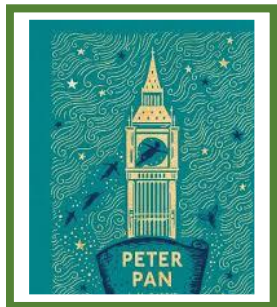


The Cloggy Choir visited the Bexley Disable Group and the Adelaide Care Home to sing Christmas carols. The children sang with great enthusiasm, and the residents were delighted to watch their performances. It was a wonderful experience for the children, and the residents thoroughly enjoyed the visit.

Thank you to Miss Parkes for arranging the carol singing and for giving up her time to practise with the Cloggy Choir.



On 12th December, year 5 were lucky to be invited to see a performance of the Wendy and Peter Pan Christmas show at Bexley Grammar School. The children thoroughly enjoyed the performance and represented Crook Log beautifully.



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.

Crook Log Food Bank

This is a reminder that we do have our own food bank that stocks tins of food, pasta, rice, cereal and some toiletries for our families.

If you need to use the food bank, please speak to a member of senior staff on the gate who can direct you where to go.

Our foodbank is run on goodwill and support from parents and staff.



SEASONS GREETINGS

As we approach the end of the year, we extend our warmest wishes to everyone in our community. This is a time celebrated in many ways across different cultures, faiths, and traditions. However, you choose to celebrate, we hope that you take time to relax and gather with loved ones.

May the coming year be filled with hope, understanding, and shared connection for us all. We look forward to seeing you all in 2026.

Kind Regards

Mrs Barratt and Mrs Hollidge

Key stage one staff and children put on a fabulous Christmas Nativity show titled 'The Bad Guys steal Christmas'. The children all danced, acted and sang with enthusiasm. Thank you to the year 2 staff 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. Although we still can't get THAT song out of our heads! Well done Key stage one!



Diary Dates:

5th January – Children back to school

8th January – Prospective parents viewing

20th January - Young Voices concert

22nd January - Prospective Nursery parents viewing

6th February- FOCLS Talent show

16th February- **Half Term**

26th February- Prospective Nursery parents viewing

11th-12th March- KIC Theatre

12th March- Cultural celebration evening

19th March- Prospective Nursery parents viewing

24th March- 2H visit to Hall Place

26th March- 2B visit to Hall Place

30th March- **Easter Holidays**

13th April- Children back to school

