



Principal's update

Diversity Ambassadors at Cranford Park Academy

We are very proud that Cranford Park Academy is a school full of wonderful differences, in race, culture, background, ability, and experience. Our children and staff celebrate these differences every day, and this year we are excited to introduce our very own Diversity Ambassadors to help us continue this important work.

At CPA, we believe that learning about diversity from a young age helps children grow into confident, respectful and open minded individuals. When children understand that people may look, speak, believe or learn differently and that these differences are something to value, they develop empathy, kindness and a stronger sense of belonging. Celebrating diversity early on supports children in forming positive friendships, recognising fairness, and standing up for one another. It also helps them see that everyone has something unique and important to offer.

Children from Reception to Year 6 were invited to apply for the role by sharing what diversity means to them and why they would make a great ambassador. We received an amazing number of thoughtful applications, and choosing was not easy! We are delighted to announce our new Diversity Ambassadors, who will work alongside our staff diversity team,

Our Diversity Ambassadors will:

- Help promote an inclusive and welcoming school environment
- Share pupils' ideas and voices on inclusion
- Encourage understanding and celebrate differences
- Offer support to their peers
- Challenge unkind or unfair behaviour
- Help make sure every child feels valued, safe and respected



These ambassadors will help build on the wonderful work already happening at CPA to recognise, respect and celebrate the many unique backgrounds, beliefs, identities, abilities and experiences within our school community. By doing this, they help create a school where every child can see themselves reflected, appreciated and empowered.

Together with the We Belong Project, the ambassadors will also help promote important events such as Show Racism the Red Card held in October and the International Day of Persons with Disabilities which happened only last week. Keep an eye on future newsletters for more exciting events and activities as we continue to make diversity thrive at our school!

Dates for your diary

Christmas Holidays

Term Ends;

Fri 19th December 2025

School re-opens

Mon 5th January 2026

Spring Half Term;

Mon 16th Feb to Fri 20th

Feb 2026

Staff Development Day

Monday 23rd Feb 2026

Attendance

The class with the best attendance this last week was:

1st place: 2ZA

2nd place: 6KB

3rd place: 3EJ

It will be a non-uniform day on, well done!



Father Christmas paid a surprise visit to CPA!!!



Self-confident Trustworthy Ambitious
Respectful & Responsible Supportive

Safeguarding: Screen time over the Christmas period!

As the holiday approaches, it's worth discussing screen time with your children and working with them to make a set of family rules for device use over the summer.

Involving them in the process of making rules can help facilitate conversations about why it's important to have a healthy balance between screen time and other activities and issues of online safety.

Online safety organisation Internet Matters suggests establishing 'device-free zones' in the home, for example, no devices in their bedrooms or at the dining table. It also recommends limiting screen time to short bursts and ensuring breaks after every 30 minutes of use.

Having a screen curfew can help minimise disruption to sleep. If bedtimes are later during the summer holidays, a rule could be that devices are switched off an hour before bed.

Reminding your child that they will need to switch their device off or stop playing a game before they have to do it will help to prevent the conflict that can occur if you just say 'switch that off now'.

If they are playing a game or working on something that needs to be saved, give them time to do so by mentioning it ahead of curfew time.

Screen time rules and boundaries should also cover keeping your child safe online. Explain the importance of not sharing personal information or your current location online as well as installing parental controls on devices and going over privacy settings on apps they use.



Well-Being:

Make time for things that YOU enjoy 😊

This is vital to top up your own levels of wellbeing. Arranging catch ups with friends and family, watching Christmas or favourite movies, taking time to cook or going for walks in the fresh air, listening to your favourite songs, playing family games – all can provide opportunities for mini wellbeing top-ups!

Schedule time to just 'be' for relaxation and rest 🧘

In Winter we are designed to sleep and rest more and move through days a little slower. If you feel tired this is your body's wisdom speaking to you! We all need rest and recovery, allowing our brains and bodies to rest is essential for wellbeing.

Let go of 'perfect' to manage your stress

It is a hectic time of the year and everything just needs to be good enough! Allow yourself to be present and enjoy the magic and sparkle without heaping a load of unrealistic pressure on yourself.



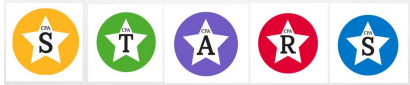
December Kindness 2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1 Spread kindness and share the December calendar with others	2 Contact someone you can't be with to see how they are	3 Offer to help someone who is facing difficulties at the moment	4 Support a charity, cause or campaign you really care about	5 Give a gift to someone who is homeless or feeling lonely	6 Leave a positive message for someone else to find	7 Give kind comments to as many people as possible today
8 Do something helpful for a friend or family member	9 Notice when you're hard on yourself or others and be kind instead	10 Listen wholeheartedly to others without judging them	11 Buy an extra item and donate it to a local food bank	12 Be generous. Feed someone with food, love or kindness today	13 See how many different people you can smile at today	14 Share a happy memory or inspiring thought with a loved one
15 Say hello to your neighbour and brighten up their day	16 Look for something positive to say to everyone you speak to	17 Give thanks. List the kind things others have done for you	18 Ask for help and let someone else discover the joy of giving	19 Contact someone who may be alone or feeling isolated	20 Help others by giving away something that you don't need	21 Appreciate kindness and thank people who do things for you
22 Congratulate someone for an achievement that may go unnoticed	23 Choose to give or receive the gift of forgiveness	24 Bring joy to others. Share something which made you laugh	25 Treat everyone with kindness today, including yourself!	26 Get outside. Pick up litter or do something kind for nature	27 Call a relative who is far away to say hello and have a chat	28 Be kind to the planet. Eat less meat and use less energy
29 Turn off digital devices and really listen to people	30 Let someone know how much you appreciate them and why	31 Plan some new acts of kindness to do in 2026				



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together



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Family Support Worker Focus:

Why some children struggle more during the holiday period



Understanding these challenges helps us support children with empathy and calm, helping them feel safe and secure.

Changes in routine: The structure of school disappears, which can increase anxiety and tiredness.

Family stress or conflict: Financial pressures or tension at home can affect children's sense of security.

Loneliness or loss: Holiday season can remind children of loved ones who have passed away.

Sensory overload: Bright lights, noise, and busy environments can feel overwhelming, especially for neurodivergent children.

Less access to help: Teachers, pastoral staff, and counsellors are not available during the break

Looking After Yourself!



"You can't pour from an empty cup. Parents' wellbeing matters during the holiday season — caring for yourself helps keep your family happy and allows you to stay calm, strong, and present for your children.

1. Take moments of quiet, even five minutes with a cup of tea, a walk or journaling
2. Don't aim for perfection, children remember laughter and love, not how tidy the house was.
3. Ask for help if you need it, talk to a friend, family member, or professional support.
4. Sleep, rest, and nourishment are essential, not optional. If you ever feel your mental health is declining, please reach out. Seeking help early can make all the difference.

Family Support Worker Focus:

Supporting Children's Mental Health over the holiday period



Keep a gentle routine

Maintain familiar mealtimes and bedtimes where possible.

Reduce pressure

Focus on togetherness over perfection.

Providing calm spaces

Give children somewhere quiet to reset.

Staying connected

Encourage friendships and open conversations.

Talking about feelings. Let children know it's okay to feel a mix of emotions.

Returning To School After the Holiday Period



The transition back to school can bring mixed feelings, excitement, nervousness, or tiredness.

You can help by: Reintroducing routines a few days early like regular bedtimes and school-day rhythms make mornings easier.

- Talking positively about school and what they're looking forward to.
- Acknowledging worries and offering reassurance that it's okay to take time to settle.
- Encouraging rest and balanced routines in the first week back.



Curriculum Showcase:

Garden Rooms

Garden room children have been working hard on their mark making and fine motor skills.



Curriculum Showcase:

Nursery

The nursery children were thrilled as a helicopter touched down on the field today. The children were excited to wave hello to the pilot and waved the helicopter off on its way! When they came back inside they were busy talking and drawing about what they had seen. It was an unforgettable experience for all!



Curriculum Showcase:

Reception



We were absolutely thrilled to share the amazing Reception Nativity performance with all our families this week! The children truly shone on stage, delivering a spectacular show filled with enthusiastic singing, joyful dancing, and a wonderful re-enactment of the Nativity story. The entire Reception team was incredibly impressed by the children's confidence and commitment. We are all extremely proud of how well they did. They made it a truly special occasion! Well done, Reception children!!



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Curriculum Showcase:

Year 1



Year 1 have been working hard to put on the Christmas pantomime show – Stickman. Costumes on and the stage set, the children put on a wonderful performance – the confidence of the actors, the singing and dancing all got us in the Christmas spirit!

Thank you to all the parents and families who attended our shows, your support means a lot, especially to your children. Happy Christmas from all the team in year 1.

Curriculum Showcase: Year 2

Year 2 enjoyed a fantastic Great Fire of London workshop to round off our History unit this term. We were thrilled to welcome [Samuel Pepys](#) for the day, who helped bring the events of 1666 to life. Through exciting role play, the children stepped back into the 17th century, acting out key moments from the Great Fire and gaining a real sense of what life was like at the time.

During the workshop, the children:

- Practised writing with quill pens
- Learned to play “London’s Burning” on the xylophone
- Explored and sketched historical artefacts
- Took part in an energetic bucket chain activity, racing to pass water along to put out the fire

The workshop was a huge success and thoroughly enjoyed by all. It was a wonderful, hands-on way to deepen the children’s understanding of history and bring our learning to an exciting close.



**YEAR 2
GREAT FIRE OF
LONDON
WORKSHOP**

Drawing Artifacts

Quill Writing

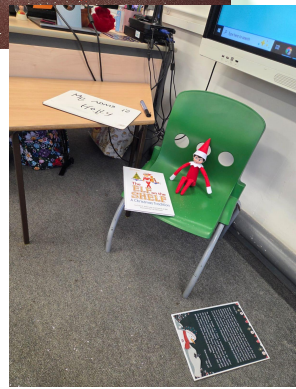
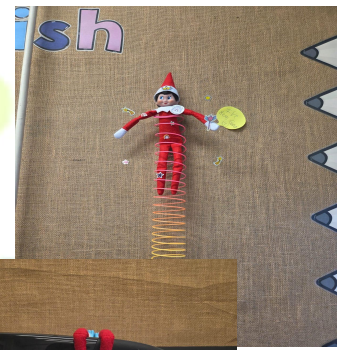
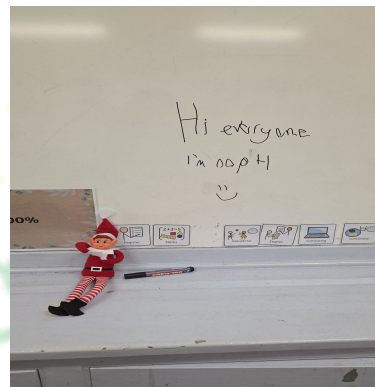
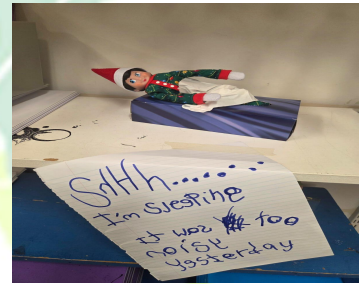
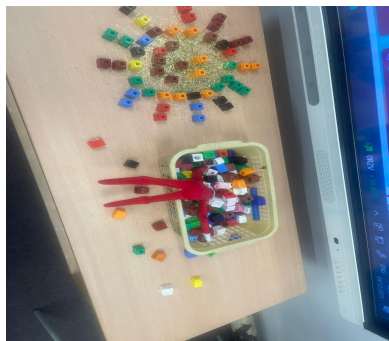
**Learning to play
“London’s Burning”**

**Photoshoot/ Freeze
frames**

Curriculum Showcase:

Year 3

The Year 3 classrooms erupted in a whirlwind of mischievous festive frenzy as Santa's most energetic elves paid an unexpected visit. Instead of a calm, Christmassy atmosphere, they created absolute chaos. They did many things such as having a snow party indoors, creating a fort out of glue sticks, using our equipment to make beds and making their very own jumpers using our felt! Year 3 are delighted to have them in class. However, we are so stunned with their behaviour that we are writing a complaint letter to Santa Claus in the hope their mischievous shenanigans stop! Here are a few photos to show the chaos they have created in the year 3 classrooms.



Curriculum Showcase:

Year 4

Year 4 have been looking at how we can edit images by using filters and layering. To complete their unit they have created some 2026 calendars!



Curriculum Showcase:

Year 5

Year 5 Christmas Market and Carol Concert. We are incredibly proud of how excellent the children were during the Christmas Market and Carol Concert. They represented Y5 beautifully, performing with confidence and enthusiasm and showing fantastic teamwork and responsibility throughout the events. Thank you to all families who came along to support and help make the occasion such a success.

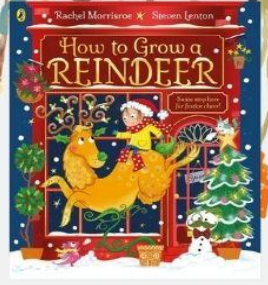
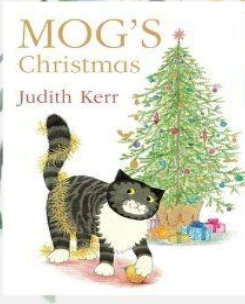


Curriculum Showcase:

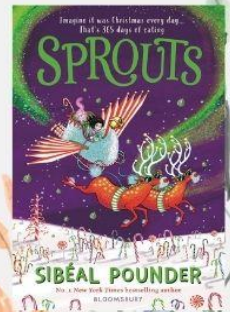
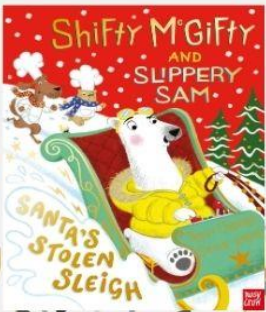
Year 6



Year 6 have been busy getting our corridor ready for the festive season. We put up the Christmas tree with help from Mrs Courtinho and then we decorated wooden ornaments and hung them on the tree. We have also been practising our class Christmas song to share with each other around the tree.

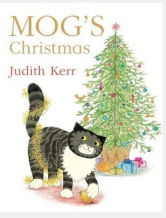


Mrs Matthews'
RECOMMENDED READS



Mrs Matthews' recommended reads:

EARLY YEARS



MOG'S Christmas
Judith Kerr

Mog's Christmas by Judith Kerr

The class Christmas story of with Mog, everyone's favourite family cat!

It's Christmas, and Mog's house is full of strange noises and peculiar smells. Everyone is busy hanging holly and blowing up balloons, and where is that tree going...? But it's always a Merry Christmas in the end when you're with Mog and her family.

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LOWER KEY STAGE 2



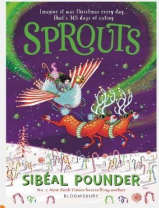
Shifty McGifty AND SLIPPERY SAM: SANTA'S STOLEN SLEIGH
Tracey Corderoy

Shifty McGifty and Slippery Sam: Santa's Stolen Sleigh by Tracey Corderoy

Shifty and Sam are off to Lapland to bake a festive feast for Santa and his elves. But there's a Christmas crisis - the elves are unwell and can't finish the toys! Does mysterious stranger and gadget queen, Flo Frost, really want to help? Or could she have her eyes on the most magical gadget of all... Santa's flying sleigh?! It's up to Shifty and Sam to race across the snowy slopes and save Christmas for everyone!

Shifty McGifty and Slippery Sam is a hugely successful, action-packed series about two baker-dogs who used to be robbers, but now solve mysteries and sniff out crimes!

UPPER KEY STAGE 2



SPROUTS
SIBÉAL POUNDER

Sprouts by Sibéal Pounder

In the year 4024, Christmas is everywhere. Santa Claus rules the world and the Big Day happens EVERY DAY! There are holographic elves to grant your wishes, travel is by flying sleigh, and all food is served as candy canes, in any flavour you can imagine!

Not everyone gets to celebrate 24/7 though. Gryla Garland is a witch banished to the Mince Pie Isles, where Christmas comes but once a year. All she's ever wished for is to join the festive world.

But when Santa's daughter, Merrilee Claus, comes crashing into her life, Gryla realises Christmas every day might not be such a good thing after all. With the real magic of Christmas long forgotten, it's up to Gryla, Merrilee and a lot of sprouts to bring the magic back.



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Interested in teaching?



Train to Teach with Cranford Park Academy and Teach West London in September 2026.

Thinking about a career in teaching? Applications are now open for [Teach West London's teacher training programme](#) starting September 2026. Our school partners with Teach West London to offer West-London based routes for parents, graduates, teaching assistants, and career-changers. If you, or someone you know, has the potential to become an excellent teacher, find out more by contacting Teach West London on 020 3301 3180 /ITT@teachwestlondon.org.uk, visiting their [website](#), or register your interest [here](#).

Cranford Park
Academy

