

# Curnow School

# Newsletter



## January 2023

And in the blink of an eye the first month of 2023 is drawing to a close—it has been a month of dark mornings and nights, snow days and pending strikes. We continue to see the impact of winter bugs on our pupils and staff and yet still everywhere I go around school I see and hear great joy from all as they settle back in to routines post-Christmas. Huge thanks as always to our staff and families for their energy and enthusiasm in what is known as the most depressing month of the year—we have survived it!

It is lovely to see what both Crofty and Rock classes have been up to this term. It is lovely to see how happy the Crofty crew are when working on their physical skills—super sporty! I am really excited to see the supermarket themed room this term in Rock—although I am already missing my toasted sandwich & cake on a Tuesday!

Our curriculum focus this term is Design Technology—thanks Sue for putting together information for our families to learn more about this subject.

Next week we are looking forward to all things wellbeing as we support the Place 2 Be Mental Health week and learn of all the ways we can look after ourselves physically and emotionally—it will be a really fun week with a range of activities from mindfulness to healthy eating. We look forward to seeing everyone 'dressed to express' on Friday! -see flyer at end of newsletter for more information

Caroline

### Dates for your diary!

**Place 2 Be Mental Health  
week—6th-10th Feb  
(come dressed to ex-  
press on Friday 10th)**

**Half Term Dates:  
13th-17th February**

**Upper School  
24th February—Culture  
Day—Peru**

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# Lower School News



## News from Crofty Class!

Our topic this term is all about feelings and an Author study of Nick Sharratt. Our focus story is called Shark in the Dark. We are learning about different textures and working on our tracking, looking and listening skills.



We love sharing stories in lots of different formats. We use Living Paintings books that have raised pictures and braille, we have listening stories and sensory stories of all sorts.

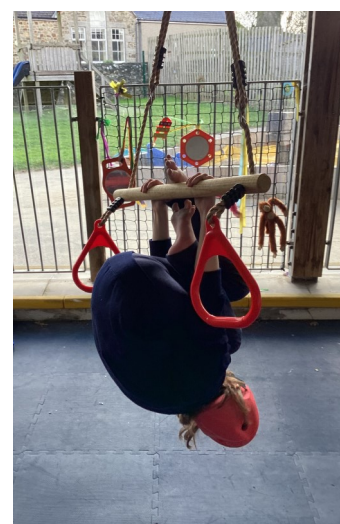




# Lower School News



Every day in Crofty we work on therapy and physical motor skills. These personal targets are part of our learning and play and we have great fun working on them at the same time.



Therapy is intertwined with everything we do. So we may be doing art on a wedge, music in a stander or of course yoga and dance are excellent for getting us moving and stretching. We are active learners, we learn by doing, exploring and having fun at the same time.





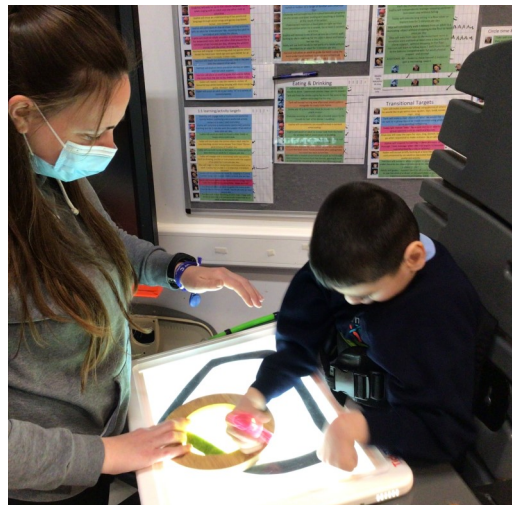
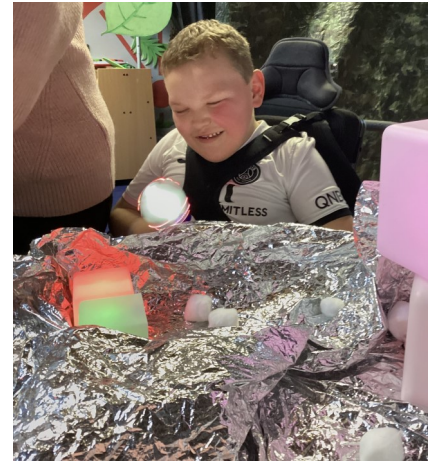
# Lower School News



In Crofty, we work on tactile discrimination and visual skills daily. This is so that we can learn to understand our environment, we can learn to explore and communicate our choices and develop control and learn about the effect we have on the things around us.



Touching, reaching, noticing changes,  
fixating, tracking, distinguishing  
between, exploring, revisiting, manipu-  
lating, using and applying,  
**LEARNING & UNDERSTANDING**





# Upper School News



Last term in Key Stage 4 we started our new work skills room. Every term we will be focusing on a new area of work related learning. We began with a café for staff lunches on a Tuesday. The students really enjoyed working in the café. As well as building on their communication skills they were able to work on key number, measure, money and independence targets.



# Upper School News



Some of our learners followed a sensory based approach to café working

As well as working to a budget we practised our social skills , literacy and money skills whilst visiting the local supermarket.



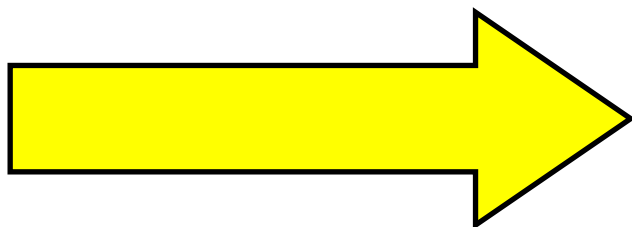
Our Desserts were a real success last term we hope to be able to sell them in our supermarket this term!





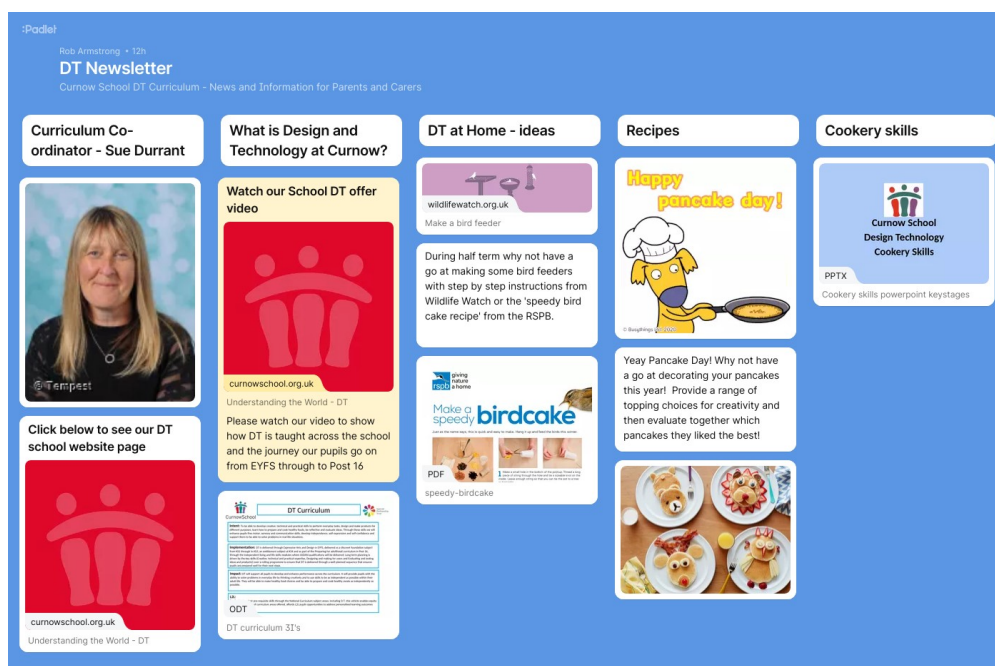
# Curriculum focus— DT

Scan me with your smart phone camera for our interactive DT newsletter!!



Can't scan?—copy this into your web browser

<https://padlet.com/rarmstrong46/dt-newsletter-u4a08cd2z3ee3vbr>



This month's focus is **DT** which includes **Food & Nutrition**. **DT** is a valuable subject taught within Curnow and it is definitely one that the pupils enjoy. We recognise that both elements of **DT** play important roles in our students learning journey. Each area provides skills that help to develop their creativity, understanding, technical and practical skills which are needed to perform everyday tasks.

**Design Technology** has four aims: Design, Make, Evaluate & Technical knowledge.

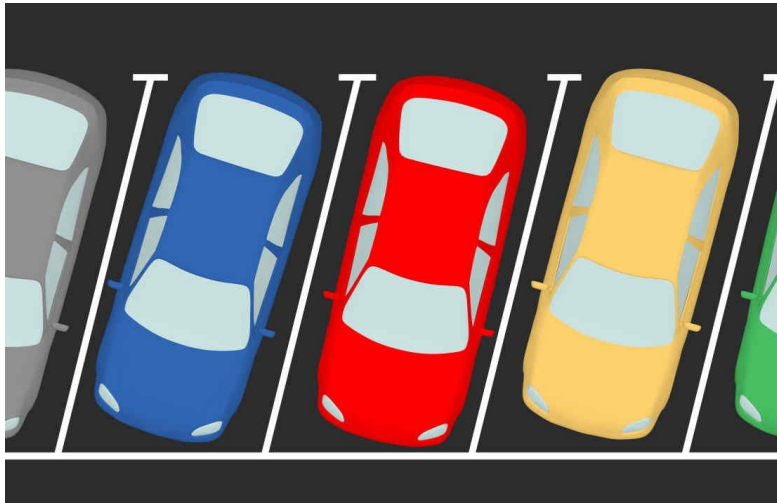
The **Food & Nutrition** element teaches our students about the principles of nutrition (healthy foods/food groups, equipment & techniques, how to cook & food preparation).

Please check our PD padlet to find out more:

Sue Durrant is the school's DT co-ordinator - email:

[sdurrant@curnowschool.org.uk](mailto:sdurrant@curnowschool.org.uk)

# Car Parking



We just wanted to take the opportunity to acknowledge that car/bus parking on both sites is becoming challenging. This year we have seen changes in transport and an increase in parents dropping off and collecting their children, which results in more 'traffic'. We will continue to review the situation and support where we can but please can we ask all to be aware; take care to drive slowly into the car park, please leave space at Lower School (directly outside reception) free for County minibus parking, please be patient with everyone. We can't magic any extra spaces but we can work together to drive safely and calmly and manage the drop off and pick up as stress free as possible. Please speak to Caroline/Rob or Sam if you have any concerns and we will do our best to help.

Thank You!



# Governor visits



“A great start to the first meeting of our new school council. Positions within the council were agreed and the Chair welcomed all members and reminded them of the school council values. We discussed the upcoming mental health week planned at school and agreed that Friday would be a ‘Dress to Express’ day”.

Wendy Hattam (Community Governor)



## LET'S TALK PUPIL PREMIUM

Pupil premium is **funding to improve education outcomes for disadvantaged pupils in schools in England**. The following information tells you what we are spending our pupil premium money on at Curnow this year and why....

The what...



Our Family Liaison Worker role is part-funded by our Pupil Premium funds this year.

The why...

Research tells us that parental engagement in their child's learning has a direct impact on how well they do in school. Our parent survey feedback tells us how important Claire's support is to help us work well in partnership with our families.



Yoga sessions – weekly yoga sessions provided by Gill Sadler. A combination of individual and group sessions.

Research tells us that supporting social and emotional skills for our pupils improves not only outcomes in school but also later in life. Pupil wellbeing is at the heart of what we do at Curnow, Yoga helps us support our pupils to thrive and upskills all staff to use techniques taught by Gill throughout the school day.



Individual, paired and small group teaching sessions, on a range of activities from learning to use symbols to practising writing/learning phonics or develop independent living skills.

We track individual progress for all pupils and we want to ensure that we are able to offer additional time and resources to ensure all pupils reach their potential, in whatever area is needed. Evidence shows that high quality teaching interventions can help pupils progress.



We will be working with a local authority advisor on the Parent Carer Engagement Framework this year.

Research shows that for all age groups, well-designed school communications with parents can be effective for improving progress and a range of other outcomes, such as attendance. We also want to continue to increase parent voice and find out the best ways we can help our families to support their child.



We are funding additional training for staff and sessions for pupils with an Occupational Therapist.

Services, such as Occupational Therapy continue to be reduced and as a school we want to make sure our pupils can still access good quality support and that we also upskill our staff so that they can support the physical and mental health of all learners and help them to be ready to enjoy and engage in their learning.



THURSDAY 16:02:23  
11AM - NOON  
MILLS HALL, CARHARRACK

£3 PER CHILD OR  
£6 PER FAMILY



# WE WIGGLE **2**

## DANCE SESSIONS

Fb: Fit2Wiggle - getting active together  
Msg Gill 07817 174114

**BOOK NOW!**



LET'S  
CONNECT



## TIPS FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

Dear parents and carers,

**6 - 12 February 2023 is Children's Mental Health Week.** The week is run by children's mental health charity Place2Be to raise awareness of the importance of children and young people's mental health. This year's theme is Let's Connect.

### WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

**Let's Connect** is about making meaningful connections, and for Children's Mental Health Week 2023, Place2Be is encouraging people to connect with others in healthy, rewarding and meaningful ways.

As parents and carers, you are an important role model to your child. How you connect with friends and family will influence your child, and how they develop their own friendships and relationships. For example, how you greet people and maintain friendships, but also how you forgive people or say sorry when you need to.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Here are a few simple ways you can connect with your child and help them to make meaningful connections.

#### 1. Connect with your child in everyday ways

Moments of connection (and re-connection) are really important in child-caregiver relationships. For example, when you pick them up from school, or come in from work, try to give them your full attention and see if this helps you feel better connected as you hug, talk, smile and hear about their day. Watching your child play and joining in is really important to them – so put your phone away and have a bit of fun – being playful is good for adults, too!

With your older child, you may find times such as car journeys a good time to talk, or to re-connect by playing music you both like. It is important to be accessible to a teenager when they need to talk. You may have to be there 'on their terms' and be ready to listen.

#### 2. Talk to your child about important connections

This could include talking about family members, friends, neighbours, childminders, people in the local community and others in your faith group (if you have one). Remember it's ok to talk about people they miss, for example, family members who live in a different country or people who have died.

Children learn a lot from their parents about how to express their feelings, including the joy that comes with feeling connected to others and the sadness that comes with missing others.

#### 3. Talk to your child about their friends

As children become teenagers, their friendship groups become increasingly important to them. Be open to hearing about their friendships and try to listen without judgement.



# LET'S CONNECT



Ask them about their life in real life and online. You may not think online friends are 'real friends', but your child may feel differently. Losing friends, feeling left out or being bullied is very painful and your child needs to know you will support them through these difficult times.

#### 4. **Connect by taking an interest in your child's world**

As adults we can sometimes be dismissive of the things that our children and teenagers are interested in, e.g. their music, fashion, what they watch etc. If you do take an interest in these things, however, you may feel better connected to your child and the important things in their world. This can lead to other conversations about other things in their lives that matter to them.

#### 5. **Find time to connect as a family**

Family life can become busy and stressful, so it's important to find some time where you connect together. This could include simple things like cooking, watching a film, playing a game, going to the park or even doing the family shop together.

#### 6. **Try to resolve conflict and re-connect after arguments**

Arguments and moments of disconnection are bound to happen in families - between your children, between yourself and your children and between yourself and your partner, if you have one. It is important that children learn how to disagree in appropriate ways, how to say sorry and how to make amends when they have done something wrong. They will learn a lot about how to do these things from you - so try to model the behaviour you want to see in your children. Talk to them about how to re-connect with friends after arguments including what they can do to help repair relationships.

### Video activities from Place2Be

**Puzzle Pieces** – aimed at 4-7 year olds, this activity is presented by CBBC's Art Ninja, Ricky Martin, and will show children how we are all connected. Why not take part as a family? [childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/puzzlepieces](https://childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/puzzlepieces)

**Connecting Paperchains** – developed by Place2Be's Art Room team for 7-11 year olds, this activity helps children think about the people, things and activities they feel connected to. [childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/paperchains](https://childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/paperchains)

**Exchanging Postcards** – developed by Place2Be's Art Room team for 11-14 year olds, this activity encourages young people to explore what connection means to them. [childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/postcards](https://childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/postcards)

### Looking for free practical advice to help you support your child?

Parenting Smart, Place2Be's site for parents and carers, is full of expert advice and tips on supporting primary-age children, and managing their behaviour. [parentingsmart.org.uk](https://parentingsmart.org.uk)

**Let your child know that if they are worried about something, they should always talk to an adult they trust. It could be you, someone in your family, a teacher or someone else in their school.**

If you're worried about your child's mental health you can talk to your GP or someone at your child's school.

You can also find a list of organisations that provide support and advice on our website: [place2be.org.uk/help](https://place2be.org.uk/help)