



Crawford Village  
Primary School & Nursery

# THE CRAWFORD CHRONICLE

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2024

## Class Attendances

| 29 <sup>th</sup> November 2024 |       |       | 6 <sup>th</sup> December 2024 |       |       |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|-------------------------------|-------|-------|
| C1                             | C2    | C3    | C1                            | C2    | C3    |
| 94.6%                          | 93.2% | 99.7% | 95.4%                         | 96.8% | 97.1% |

School  
Target  
**96%**

## A note from Class 2...

Just where has this half-term gone - Class 2 think it has flown by! We have packed so much into the last few weeks and we are looking forward to the festive activities yet to come.

In English, we have enjoyed writing our own stories based on the story of Zog then creating fact files about the Great Fire of London while in Maths, we have continued working on our number bonds, addition and subtraction and shape.

In Science, we have had lots of fun creating our own experiments to test whether we grow at the same rate and to see how germs spread and, in History, we have been looking at how homes have changed over the years and comparing modern day homes to those in the Victorian era.

We have also taken part in lots of other celebrations and events including Halloween, Remembrance Day commemorations, Non-fiction November, Children in Need Day, sporting tournaments and, of course, our Nativity rehearsals! What a whirlwind... but lots of fun!



# Coming up @ Crawford...

# Diary Dates

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| <b>Mon</b>   | Lunchtime - School Choir                                       |
| <b>Tues</b>  | Lunchtime - Self-love Club<br>C2 Nativities & C3 Carol Concert |
| <b>Wed</b>   | Lunchtime - Spanish<br>After School - Craft Club               |
| <b>Thurs</b> | Lunchtime - Brass<br>After School - Table Tennis               |
| <b>Fri</b>   | Lunchtime - Micro:bit Club / Chicken Club                      |
| <b>Mon</b>   |  |
| <b>Tues</b>  |  |
| <b>Wed</b>   | Lunchtime - Christmas Dinner                                   |
| <b>Thurs</b> |  |
| <b>Fri</b>   | School closes 1.30pm   |

*Next week:*

**Tuesday**  
**10<sup>th</sup> December 2024**  
 C2 Nativity 9.15am & 6.00pm  
 C2 final swimming session for this term  
 C3 Carol Concert 2.00pm

**Wednesday**  
**11<sup>th</sup> December 2024**  
 C1 Nativity 9.15am

**Thursday**  
**12<sup>th</sup> December 2024**  
 National Christmas Jumper Day

*Later in the half-term:*

**16<sup>th</sup> December 2024**  
 Best Class Attendance  
 Afternoon Tea

**18<sup>th</sup> December 2024**  
 Class Christmas Parties

**20<sup>th</sup> December 2024**  
 School Closes 1.30pm

## Non-uniform Days



## Christmas Nativity Dates

### Class 1

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 9.15am

### Class 2

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 9.15am and  
6.00pm

### Class 3 (Carol Concert)

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2.30pm

# Christmas at Crawford

### Pantomime Visit

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December

### Christmas Parties

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December

### Christmas Fair

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December

### Christmas Shops

#### Dads and Grandads

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December

#### Mums and Nans

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December

### Christmas Dinner

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December



# Award Winners



## Star of the Week

|                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| C1 Arthur      | C1 Brian     |
| C2 Jenson      | C2 Charlie R |
| C3 Charlie-Rai | C3 Meadow    |
|                | Y3/4 Elijah  |



## Pride Award

|           |               |
|-----------|---------------|
| C2 Martha | C2 Xander     |
| C3 Laura  | C3 Olivia BM# |



## Super Writers

|                |            |
|----------------|------------|
| C2 Evelyn R    | C2 Darcy C |
| C3 Holly       | C3 Skylar  |
| Y3/4 Catherine |            |

# Housepoints

PHOENIX



1st

OWLS



2nd

RAVENS



4th

EAGLES



3rd

## Find us on social media...



Crawford Village Primary School



@crawford\_school

Don't forget to log on to your child's Seesaw account. You will find work that they do in school, photographs and videos that are not uploaded to social media and you can upload photos from home. Please ask if you are having any problems logging on and we will help if we can.

Do not forget to check out our school website! You will find details of upcoming events, term dates, important key documents and policies plus lots of information and photographs showcasing what we have been doing in school.





## FRIENDS OF TAWD VALLEY AND THE KINGFISHER CLUB FESTIVE COFFEE MORNING



Come along to the Community Classroom this coming Saturday the 7th of December and enjoy some festive refreshments.



Everyone is welcome whether a member of Friends of Tawd Valley or not!  
For the younger visitors there will be some lovely Christmassy craft things to do and maybe a short walk into the valley.

For those of you who have not been to a Friends of Tawd Valley event before it will be a nice way of finding out what we are about and maybe a chance for a look around the valley close by the community classroom



The festive fun will be between 10.30 am and 12.00  
You can find us at the Community Classroom in the Allotment Site, Manfield, Ashurst, Skelmersdale WN8 6SU  
Car parking is available outside of the Allotment Compound  
Dogs are welcome but must be on a lead.

We look forward to seeing those of you who regularly attend our volunteer sessions but we would also love to meet any of you who just want to know about the Friends of Tawd Valley and our junior members Kingfisher Club

Don't forget Saturday December 7th from 10.30am



**What?**

Scientists recently made an incredible discovery in Siberia - a sabre-toothed kitten that has been perfectly preserved in ice for 37,000 years! The kitten, found mummified in Siberia's permafrost, was in amazing condition.

Compared to a lion cub (right pic) of the same age

Source: Lopatin et al. Scientific Reports 2024

Its dark brown fur, tiny whiskers, and even its bean-shaped toes were still intact, giving researchers a rare glimpse into the Ice Age. Unlike today's lion cubs, this sabre-toothed kitten had a super muscular neck (twice as thick as a lion's!) and wide paws to help it walk on snow.

**What?**

Even though this kitten didn't have its iconic sabre teeth yet (it still had baby teeth!), scientists learned a lot about how these ancient cats grew their massive fangs and adapted to the frozen environment. For example, its jaw was specially shaped to hold the long, cone-shaped teeth that adult sabre-toothed tigers were known for.

Source: Fabrice Coffini AFP

This discovery is so important because it's the first time scientists have been able to study a sabre-toothed tiger so closely, and understand how they survived the Ice Age.

Be smart on internet

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SNAPCHAT

**SNAP STREAK**  
**97**  
**DAYS**

AGE RESTRICTED  
**13+**

Snapchat is a messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to others. Its best-known feature is that anything sent 'disappears' 24 hours after it's been viewed; however, users are known to take screenshots or use another device to obtain a photo of their screen. In 2023, Snapchat added a chatbot function called 'My AI'.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

### PREDATORS AND SCAMS

Predators can exploit Snapchat's disappearing messages by, for example, taking a user they have naked photos of them and will post them unless they're paid. Snapchat's own research found that 65% of teenagers had experienced this – on this app or others. This likely isn't helped by 'Snapmap' – a feature which highlights your exact position in real-time. This is meant to help friends keep track of each other, but could be used for more sinister reasons.

### MY EYES ONLY

Snapchat has a hidden photo vault called My Eyes Only. Users can conceal sensitive photos and videos from parents and carers in this folder, which is protected by a PIN. You can check for this by clicking on the icon which looks like two playing cards. This takes you to the 'Memories' folder which stores photos, stories and the My Eyes Only folder.

### SCREEN TIME ADDICTION

Snapchat prioritises user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). The app also has sections called 'Discover' and 'Spotlight', which show tailored content to each user. However, this could also be seen as an attempt to hook users into watching videos endlessly. Furthermore, constant notifications can lure people into using the app.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat simply isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so seeking continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

### ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beauty' effects can set unrealistic body image expectations – photos can look so unrealistic they're unusable. Creating feelings of inadequacy in younger users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### UTILISE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Snapchat's 'Family Centre' lets you view the details of a child's account and who they've spoken to in the last week – and report any concerns. You must invite a child to the Family Centre for them to join. To keep the child's location hidden on the app, go into settings and turn on 'Ghost Mode' and 'Hide Live Location', and ensure they know not to share their location with anyone.

### BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does contact with a child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why you're reporting that user – such as annoying or malicious messages, spam or masquerading as someone else.

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



### FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

Before you allow a child to download Snapchat, download it yourself and familiarise yourself with the app. Snapchat has produced a parents' guide to the app to help you understand how it works and any protections they have in place. A link for this can be found in the sources below.

### ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. For example, discuss My AI's responses to questions and how reliable they are. Talk about sexting and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're already on a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat-2021>

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[www.thenationalcollege.com](https://www.thenationalcollege.com)

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# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING APPS

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

When looking at options for supporting a child's mental health, the sheer volume can be overwhelming. There are many wellbeing apps available, but unfortunately not all are trustworthy. It's important to evaluate which resources are suitable, reliable and effective. This guide lets you know what to consider before installing such an app, to determine just how useful it's going to be.

### QUALITY & RELIABILITY

Mental health apps can be a useful starting point when looking for wellbeing advice and strategies and can be a useful extension to the in-person services available. However, they aren't a substitute, information on the quality of these apps is scarce. They may look cute and child-friendly, but have they been designed by a mental health professional? Furthermore, do they have research to back up their content?

### PLACE RESPONSIBILITY ON CHILDREN

Some apps add the words 'kids' or 'children' to their title or use cartoon icons to make them more appealing to young people. When signing up for some of these apps, some will ask the parent directly, saying something along the lines of 'your child is good to go. Let them take it from here'. It's important to remain involved in the child's mental health journey, so regular check-ins are recommended.

### DISREGARDING APPROPRIATE SUPPORT

Young people who feel anxious and have trouble sleeping may download a mindfulness app to help. While this is a good strategy initially, it's not addressing the root of the problem. A child could simply try managing these symptoms themselves (as opposed to speaking out and seeking professional help), which could potentially worsen their anxiety in the long run.

### LACK OF PERSONALISATION

Mental health or wellbeing apps are useful tools for the short term, teaching users several helpful habits to manage their condition – such as keeping an illness diary, improving nutrition and practising mindfulness exercises. As every person is unique – and children especially will grow and develop in different ways – these apps struggle to tailor themselves to users' individual needs. For example, many apps don't distinguish between the ages of users and can offer extremely generic advice.

### DATA SECURITY

As with any other app – not just those for mental health and wellbeing – it's wise to check out the privacy policy before downloading it. Some of these applications may share data with third parties for numerous reasons (such as targeted advertisements), and if a user is within the app, they probably don't want it ending up elsewhere without their consent.

### IN-APP PURCHASES

Many apps will provide their most basic features for free but will require you to pay for other aspects – such as a more tailored experience or access to additional resources. This could be a one-off fee or a regular subscription. Consider whether this is actually required, is it benefiting the child, or could they receive the same support from a medical professional?

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### CHECK THE CREDIBILITY OF THE APP

Before you download a mental health and wellbeing app, investigate the developers. Have they consulted with qualified mental health professionals to create their resource? Also check whether the app is affiliated with any government or mental health organisations, as these are solid indicators of legitimacy. Reviews can also be a useful signpost to the app's quality. There are many good apps out there, but there are just as many that miss the mark.

### SEEK PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

Trusted mental health and wellbeing apps designed by qualified, reputable organisations can be used alongside the personalised advice and support of a qualified professional. These apps should never be considered a substitute for mental health or other tailored medical help. If you have real concerns about a child's mental health, you should seek appropriate advice from a suitable source, such as their GP or Childline, who can be contacted by calling 0800 1111.

### READ THE PRIVACY POLICY

Look into the app's terms of service – especially its privacy policy. Do so by yourself first, then go over it with the child who is considering using the app, to ensure they know what data will be collected and how exactly it will be used. Use all of this information to make an educated decision on whether or not to download that particular app.

### ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

Mental health and wellbeing apps can be useful for writing down feelings, tracking your own health and other such activities. These can help if the problem is short-term and temporary – such as a child getting stressed about approaching exams – or if you're currently waiting for professional support. Nonetheless, it's important that children aren't solely reliant on the app and have a safe space to talk about their feelings and experiences in the real world.

### Meet Our Expert

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Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/mental-health-apps>

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ChildLine  
0800 1111

# SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PRIMARY

**SOUTH**

**Do you have a child starting  
primary school in September 2025  
and living in Lancashire?**

**Closing date: 15 January 2025**

You **must** apply even if a brother or sister is already at the school, or the school is linked to your child's nursery. Please read the admission criteria for your chosen schools on the website, or get a copy from them.

Apply for a school place now by scanning  
the QR code or visit [lancashire.gov.uk/schools](https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools)



If travel cost is an important factor in your school preference, please check the guidance on our website, or call **01772 532109**.

**HAVE  
YOUR SAY**

*Between 1 October and 31 January schools are consulting with you to make sure admission arrangements meet future needs. To find out more please visit [www.lancashire.gov.uk/schoolplaces](https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/schoolplaces) and click 'school admission policies'.*

[lancashire.gov.uk](https://www.lancashire.gov.uk)



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