



CROMWELL NEWS

Spring 2017

Spring has sprung



What better sign of Spring than lambs and chicks - the emergence of new life. On SB's trip to Smithill's Farm, pupils enjoyed stroking, handling and feeding a variety of animals. We went as part of their learning about habitats for this term's Physical World topic.

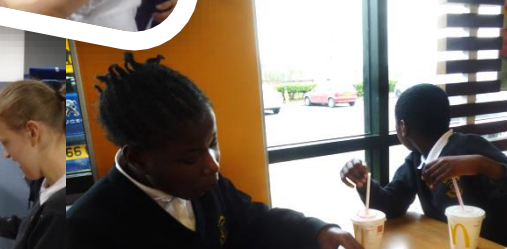
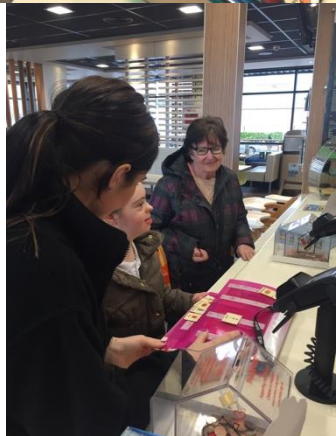
This is what it's all about! Look at the expressions on the faces of SB pupils; Harry, Sam, Jake and Alex. And with PECS files (their voice) at the ready, they're posed to communicate all about it.

Careers Fair



March 6th saw our school Careers Day in lieu of our usual Industry day - given our temporary accommodation. Pupils learnt about interview techniques and jobs, including school based jobs in the office, canteen and site staff. A representative from the army also attended and included First Aid in their presentation.

Please remember that, due to government instructions, **no holidays** can be authorised in term time!



Fair exchange.....

SC's trip to McDonalds to use PECS in the community went exceedingly well. Again, the pupils did us proud and behaved impeccably. A member of the public wanted to pay for all our dinners - he was so overwhelmed by the work the staff do supporting the pupils. As this was not appropriate, he then came to the school office and donated £100 to school! SA practiced exchanges in class and then also went, separately, to the famous fast food chain and were equally successful. Many thanks to the staff of McDonalds Denton for their help with pupils requesting their order through PECS.



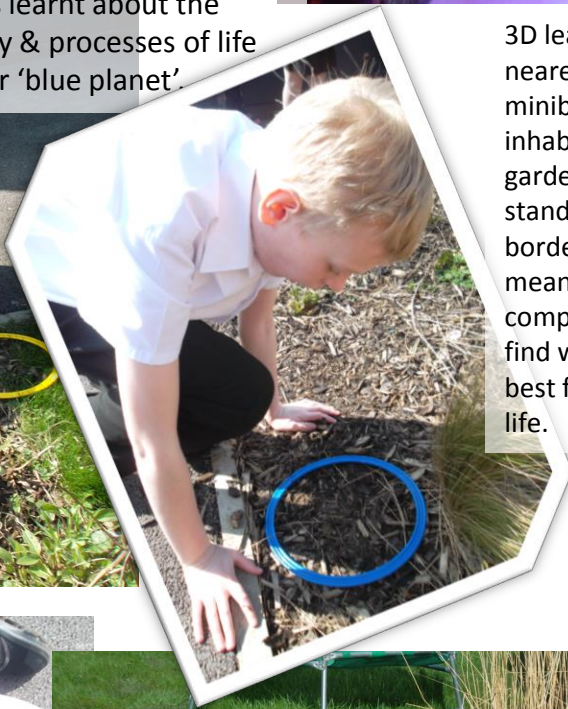
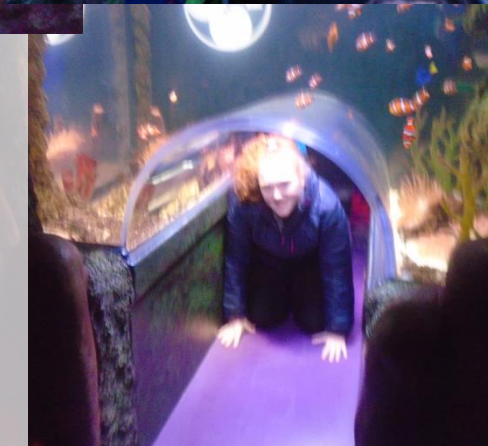
Inspire Academy kindly shared their bouncy castle experience over lunchtime. Pictured: Zain and Lucie enjoying the bounce.

"... and what makes you think you're right for this job?" - the dreaded interview question! Pupils in 4C practiced presenting themselves in a business-like way. Pictured: Bro and Aaron in the hot seat.





AA and 3C have visited the Sealife Centre in the Trafford Centre as part of their Habitats module. The pupils saw jellyfish, stingrays, sharks and turtles. AA pupils used this opportunity to practice their tracking and cause and effect skills whilst 3C pupils learnt about the variety & processes of life on our 'blue planet'.



3D learnt about life nearer to home - the minibeasts who inhabit every garden! Sampling a standard area bordered by a hoop means we can compare areas to find which is the best for supporting life.



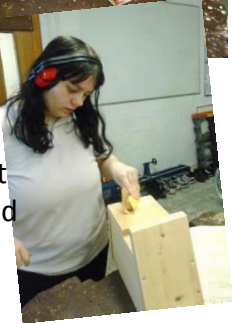


Vocational Education: Key Stage 4 pupils have once again benefitted from our Enrichment Curriculum, including work experience. Also pictured are further illustrations of our Careers Morning.



Enrichment Curriculum

Key Stage 4 pupils really developed their social and practical skills in making their bird boxes in wood work. It was great that pupils from the Structured Department did so well in joining 4C pupils in this work.



All work and no play.....

SC visited the park. Yes, it was fun, but it was also an opportunity for plenty of communication as well as the physical challenges.



Re-Build update - everything on track for September return!

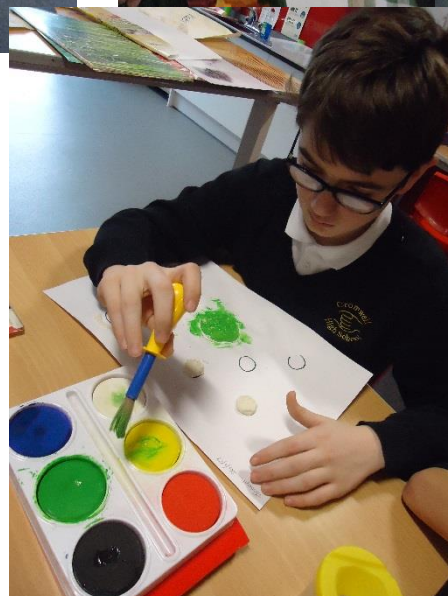


We are pleased to announce that local company, Jamieson Contracting, have won the contract and are now underway in re-building the damaged section of our school to an improved design to maximise the use of space.



The Art theme for this term has been "Organic Forms"

Pictured: Melissa, Michael, Jack and Joseph





Shining Examples!

Staff from the structured department (Trudi and Sarah pictured) made a presentation to the National Autistic Society Manchester Network on our excellent "Voice" (aka PECS) work. Pupils have been doing so fantastically well; videos of them using their voice in the community and testimony from parents on how it has transformed home life really wowed the professional audience who were keen to know how do we do it.



New minibus

We have a new, more user friendly, minibus-with a ramp and space for a wheelchair user. Here Claire Bibby, our Vice-Chair of Governors, has come to inspect this valuable new resource.



Award Winners

Our apprentices, Chloe and Lauren are official Apprentices of the Year for Tameside for school based staff. Well deserved congratulations to both of them.



**RED
NOSE
DAY**



Red Nose Day

On Friday 24th of March, we all thought about other people in the world who have greater needs than ourselves and we raised money for them. We did this by buying red noses, making and selling cakes and biscuits. Some classes even held a sponsored dancathon. Many parents and pupils supported this event and we raised an amazing £225.50!



Building neighbours

Staff from Taylor Wimpey, who are building the houses next to the Inspire Academy, visited our assembly to explain how they work and our pupils visited the show house to see the fruit of their labours. Pictured: Oliver and Cieron.





After School Clubs are back!

We have managed to restart our after-school clubs after Christmas and many pupils are now back in the flow for Dance, Music and Sport.



WORLD BOOK DAY

We celebrated World Book Day with a Harry Potter theme. A magical day!



A friend in need...

Helping our partner school - a message from Mr Foord:
Over the last few weeks, and for the foreseeable future, I have been asked, and agreed, to help out at Samuel Laycock School. They have had the truly bad luck to lose their Headteacher to ill health at the same time as their Chair of Governors, who has had to resign - although he has been replaced with an experienced governor, Mr Flint. I believe in the principle of "a friend in need..." and I am therefore honoured to have been asked to help out and will do whatever I can. My time will be need to be split between our school and theirs over this period. I will, however, only do this whilst ensuring that Cromwell continues to thrive under our challenging circumstances of temporary accommodation and the plans for our return to our own site are on track. We have the best team of staff imaginable and I have every confidence that we at Cromwell will maintain our standards and continue to develop. In fact, I believe that the opportunity to work more closely between the two schools could be a 'silver lining' that will help both schools continue to improve the provision for our pupils into the future. If any parents would like to discuss this further, please leave a message with the school office and I will get back to you as soon as possible.



Comings and Goings

Ms Joni Houghton Walsh has moved to 3D and Mrs Tracy Ouerghi has stepped down from Head of Conceptual Department to be a Class Teacher four days a week delivering a lot of Art. Ms Kath Kirton has kindly agreed to act up as Head of Department until we can recruit a new manager. Ms Kirton has had many years experience in such a role, so we know that the Department could not be in more capable hands in the interim.

Leavers

We would like to bid a fond farewell to Karen Czernuszka and Bhavna Patel. We will be recruiting for a school Speech and Language Therapist and a Head of Conceptual Department as soon as possible.



Governors' Awards

Well done to pupils: Harry for Communication, Patrick for his writing, Riley for reaching a personal milestone and Iqra for her courage under extremely difficult personal circumstances.

Staff commended amongst all the excellent achievements were Marie Jones and Danielle Ormrod for their fantastic work supporting Class SC whilst their teacher has been suffering from a long term illness. We have had several excellent supply teachers, but it is only with the fantastic commitment and skill of Marie and Danielle that standards have been kept so high for our pupils.

Patrick showing his reading skills, Iqra and Riley



Harry has done so fantastically well with his communication. Governors congratulated Marie and Danielle for doing a sterling job in SC.

