

Castle Academy Newsletter



Autumn Term 2 - Newsletter

December 2020

Welcome Back

A warm welcome back to new and existing families to Castle Academy.

In this issue of our newsletter you will find the following updates and news reports:

- **A message from the Head of School**
- **An update from your class teachers**
- **Coming up next month**
- **Contact Us**

A message from Head of School

It's been a very busy term yet again at Castle with all children and staff now ready for a well-deserved Christmas break. As Christmas has approached us, it has certainly been strange not to be able to welcome parents into school to enjoy the Christmas Fayre and the Christmas production performed by our younger children, however I am sure that this will only make Christmas next year even more special. Our EYFS and Year 1 children and staff have recorded their Christmas nativity performance, which you are able to purchase on DVD. I am looking forward to getting my copy.

As well as the Christmas nativity, we were pleased to be able to go ahead with our other Christmas events, including the whole school Christmas lunch, Year 3 Christingle service and on Wednesday we were even visited by Santa who brought gifts along with his grotto for all of our children to enjoy!

Once again I must say a huge thank you to all of our parents for your support this term. I was particularly pleased with how many of you engaged in our Parents Evenings which we had to move online this term. From the school's perspective we felt that the evenings were a success with only very few technical issues! I'm also grateful for your support in the instances where classes have had to close due to the coronavirus pandemic. We appreciate your understanding and let's hope that by the time of the next newsletter we can see an end to the pandemic in sight.

I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a relaxing winter break.

Nursery



We had a super start of the Autumn Term second half with the children attending for three weeks and two days before the nursery was closed. Our topic has been 'Lets All Celebrate!' We have looked at fireworks and how to stay safe on bonfire night. We learned lots of new vocabulary to describe the fireworks. Some of the children made up firework dances with the ribbons and scarves whilst others chose to represent them using Purple Mash on the computer. We thought about birthdays and how they are celebrated and also learned about the importance of the poppy on Remembrance Day.

As part of our White Rose Maths learning we have thought about numbers to 3 and learned about the shapes in our environment. We have use a method called Talk for Writing to help us learn The Bear Hunt story by Michael Rosen and have used this knowledge in our own story telling. In Jigsaw we have been thinking about celebrating our differences.

Thank you to our parents for being so patient during the time Nursery was closed. We would also like to thank you for the very generous donations given during the Children in Need appeal.

Please check out the home learning activities on the Nursery page of the school website. I would love to see examples of the work taking place at home so please send them in.

Miss Fransch

Reception



This term Reception have enjoyed learning about different festivals and celebrations, including; Diwali, Remembrance Day, Bonfire Night and Christmas. Although this half term has seen the children miss some school days, we have been really impressed with how resilient the children have been and how quickly they have adapted to changes. It has been lovely to see the children engaged in their learning this term and making progress. In maths we began by sorting objects into groups and comparing the quantities. The children moved on to working on one more and one less than a number to ten. The children have worked really hard to represent their numbers in different ways and work together to find the answers. We have continued to build on our phonics knowledge and have been working hard to sound out and blend CVC words and begin to look at sentences as a class. We have had new visitors to each class, 'Pip' the mouse. He has been very helpful in helping the children

begin to build their sentences and the children have taken it upon themselves to look after him. The children have also been creating artwork and representing art in different ways, including creating Rangoli patterns using computer programs.

We can't wait to start our new topic after the school holidays, which will include learning all about traditional tales such as Goldilocks and the Three Bears, Jack and the Beanstalk and the Three Little Pigs.

We hope you have a lovely holiday with your families and look forward to seeing you all in 2021!

The Reception Team



Year 1

Year 1

What an amazing term! The children have coped incredibly well with the transition from reception to year 1. Over the term they have developed their understanding of number and shape, as well as improving their writing skills. With a big focus on punctuation! They have really enjoyed learning new subjects especially history and geography. Where they have learned about Guy Fawkes and The United Kingdom. Next term we will be focusing on helping the children to prepare for their Phonics Screening as well as improving their comprehension skills. We will send home a curriculum overview within the first week back to explain what the children will be learning over the term.

A few polite reminders.

PE is on a Monday. Children are to come to school in their PE kit and can stay in their PE kit for the remainder of the day.

Please can all uniform, coats, water bottles and lunchboxes be named.

Please continue to share stories with your children.

Thank you for your support this term.

The Year 1 team.

Year 2

Year 2

We have had another fabulous term in year 2. The children have worked extremely hard and are ready for a well-deserved break!

In English we looked at the 1970's version of the story of the Rapunzel. We learnt all about the characters and plot of the story before writing our own amazing versions! Our teachers were very impressed with our writing! The year 2 team are also super impressed with how well the children scored in their Phonics screening tests this term!

In Maths we have looked at addition and subtraction and have used tens and ones to support us. We have also worked hard to learn about multiplication and division.

In other areas, we have studied Florence Nightingale in History. We have also learnt about life cycles in Science as well as making our own wonderful marvellous medicine artwork! As well as this, we have been thinking about kindness in PSHE.

All the Year 2 team are extremely impressed with the learning and behaviour across the year group this term. We would like to say thank you to all the Parents and Carers for all their support at home. It really does make a difference to the children's progress.

We hope you all have a well-earned rest and an enjoyable Christmas holidays! We look forward to welcoming the children back next term for another term of fabulous learning! Merry Christmas and a happy new year!

Year 3

Year 3

We have had another wonderful term in year 3. The children have been working extremely hard and really deserve the much needed break!

This term in English we have looked at Non-fiction text, where they all have created some really amazing fact files. You must test them on their dinosaur knowledge as we were all truly wowed by

what they produced. Also we have been learning about poetry, where they have been analysing the structure and identifying key features of poems.

In maths we have looked at Multiplication and Division, focusing on being able to instantly recall facts to support our learning. We have also worked hard to learn the formal written method for multiplication.

In other areas like science we have studied a balance diet and the human body, we have focused on understanding the role of tendons, muscles and ligaments. Where they made 3D models of a hand to show how tendon and ligaments aid movement. The year 3 team were really impressed with their models! In History we have learnt about the similarities and differences between the Stone Age, Iron Age and Bronze Age.

The attitude to learning and behaviour across the year group has been fantastic this term. We would like to say thank you to all the Parents and Carers for all their support at home. We hope you all have a wonderful break and a lovely Christmas! We look forward to welcoming the children back in the New Year.

Merry Christmas and a happy new year! From us all in year 3.

Year 4

Year 4

What a busy term we have had in year 4!

In our Maths this term, we have been continuing to develop our skills in calculation with a particular focus on multiplication. We have been experimenting with a range of methods, both written and mentally, to grow in confidence.

In English this term, we have been writing our own twisted fairy tales. We created some beautiful picture books based on the story of the Three Little Pigs from the Wolf's perspective.

In Science, we have been learning about the human body and how to have a healthy diet. In History, we have continued our work on Ancient Greece. We have looked at Greek warfare, the lives of children in Ancient Greece and Greek architecture. In Art, we have been developing our skills in sketching to create portraits. We have also been constructing sculptures with cardboard. In computing, the children have designed their own electric toys with inputs and outputs, which they have programmed using Scratch. In RE, they have been exploring Hinduism and how they worship. In Music, the children have been rehearsing a song using boomwhackers.

We have all worked very hard this term and deserve a well-earned Christmas break. We look forward to another super term in January!

Year 5

Year 5

This term in Year 5 we have based our English around a book called 'There's a boy in the Girl's Bathroom', by Louis Sachar. We have discussed the characters in detail and discussed the themes of friendship and respect in detail. Feelings of empathy have been explored around the actions of the characters and how and why they act in certain situations.

In Maths, we have been learning new and more efficient methods for multiplication and division. We have also been learning about different types of angles. We now know how many degrees are in certain angles and shapes and how to use a protractor. We also now have a better understanding of fractions as we have been studying in detail the role of a numerator and denominator.

In the afternoons we have carried on studying the Anglo Saxons and Vikings. We have learnt about how society was ordered and the roles of different people. In RE we have continued to study Sikhism and we now know about the major festivals. In Art, we are studying architecture and designing our own fantasy houses. In music we have been practising ready to perform Bon Jovi's 'Livin' on a Prayer' to show to the other year groups in school.

We have had an incredibly busy half term and wish you a restful break and a happy 2021.

Year 6



Time flies when you are having fun! This term has flown by for Year 6 and we cannot believe that it is the Christmas break already! The children have been extremely engaged this term with our theme of Peace, which has been wonderful to see. It has been a term of many successes and achievements with many children now beginning to recognise the progress that they are making in their own learning.

Our experiences this term have ranged from: drama, writing letters home in the role of an evacuee after reading Letters from the Lighthouse by Emma Carroll, creating short stories, learning algebra, geometry and learning more about WWII. Our WWII focus was on the role of women and researching a local war hero – the world famous, Walter Tull.

Here are some of the children's thoughts:

*Before this term I didn't know that much about algebra but now I feel I understand it much more.
(Amira)*

This term in Year 6, we have been learning about Walter Tull and why he's important to our country. We also found out that he has statues in Kent, Folkestone and Sixfields, Northampton! There is also a street names after him, Walter Tull Way. (Tyler)

*We have been learning about both World War 1 & 2. We talked about all of the bombing in London.
(Amelia)*

This term, I have actually really enjoyed learning about algebra; algebra looks hard but if you are taught it, it becomes easy and gets easier every time you do it. (Patricia)

One wonderful quote taken from a piece of work on Walter Tull read: ...he was a fantastic man who made many sacrifices for us. He saved many people's lives when they needed it...He's more than a hero. (Aya)

Thank you for all your support so far this year and we wish you all a wonderful break.

Miss Durrant and Mrs Hemming



1 - School Reminders

Labelling school uniform

Please ensure children's clothing is clearly labelled to ensure all property is sent home with the correct child. This will also help when returning clothing, should it find its way to lost property.

In School Childcare

Here at castle we have both a before and after club that children can attend. Further information can be found at the school office. Breakfast club is provided by Castle Academy, KidsStop is an external company who provide an after-school service for the children.

KidsStop

3:15pm—5:45pm every evening

KidsStop are now taking bookings for Term 4, which will begin on Monday 22nd February 2021.

Further information regarding pricing can be provided by KidsStop. www.kidsstop.co.uk

Breakfast Club

We are still working on bringing the breakfast club back in the safest manner for both the children and staff. As soon as we have more details and a start date we will let you know. Thank you for your patience at this time.

Afterschool Clubs

These will resume in January, you will receive a letter from us with further updates.

Dates for the Diary

Half Term

Monday 21st December 2020 - Friday 1st January 2021

Monday 4th January - Teacher Training Day

Tuesday 5th January - Children return to school

Friday 12th February - Break for Half Term

Contact Us

For further information or enquiries, please contact us via the information below.

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