

Castle Academy Newsletter



Spring Term 1 - Newsletter

February 2021

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

This term has been yet another one that can only be described as 'a term like no other'. All of us in school are missing all of you working at home very much and we can't wait to all be together again soon. I'd like to say a huge thank you to our entire school community for your hard work and commitment this term.

- *To our staff: thank you for the commitment and dedication that you've shown towards all of our children and families this term, whether at home or at school.*
- *To our parents: thank you for supporting your child's learning and the curriculum that the school has worked so hard to put into place.*
- *To our children: thank you for working so hard this term, whether at home or at school. We love to receive your work and messages and all of us are so proud of you.*

We will be saying good bye to Miss Bicknell in Early Years this term and wish Miss Willis all the best as she starts her maternity leave. We have welcomed Mrs Burden, who will be covering Miss Willis' maternity leave. We also say hello to Miss Jones, who will be working across the school.

I wish everyone a restful half term break- we all really deserve it! Stay safe and we look forward to seeing you all very soon.

Nursery



Throughout these constantly changing and uncertain times, we have had the joy of having our Nursery children in each day. For three brief hours each morning we have watched them be fascinated with the world around them, we give them time to explore their interests and ideas, talked with them and provided resources and ideas to help move their learning forward and asked them pondering questions. We have seen many new friendships form as we have less children in than normal. Our topic is 'Watch Us Grow With Stories That We Know'. We have been looking at traditional tales and nursery rhymes.

We have had a Humpty Dumpty crime scene, made a garden for Mary Mary Quite Contrary and we've visited Grandma with Little Red Riding Hood. We have been thinking about winter weather and had fun searching for shapes left in the snow by different toys. We've talked about ice and observed it melting, we've thought about why it forms and what causes it to melt. We've been doing lots of counting and working on number recognition through songs, games and with a range of resources.

Please take a closer look at the work that we have been doing by visiting the Nursery page on the website.

The Nursery is open in the mornings only from 8.45 – 11.45 during the lockdown. Please bring your child to the gate where their temperature will be checked upon arrival.

Thank you to all of our families that are sending in pictures of things that you have been doing at home. As always these can be emailed to nursery@castle.emat.uk I look forward to seeing what you have been up to each week.

Miss Fransch.

Reception



Reception

Although this half term has looked different, we are really proud of everybody at home and in school who is trying hard with their learning. We have seen some fantastic work both in school and sent in from home. This half term we have been focusing on Julia Donaldson stories including; Stickman, the Gruffalo and Zog. We have been focusing on creating story maps and retelling the story in Literacy. In maths we have been exploring the numbers to eight and building on our counting skills.

Next term we will be learning about traditional tales. We will be looking at the stories of; Jack and the Beanstalk, Goldilocks and the Three Bears and the Three Little Pigs. We will continue to work on sounding out CVC words in Literacy and forming simple sentences. We will also be extending our storytelling skills by changing and adapting the ending of the story or introducing new characters. In maths we will continue to focus on our number of the week and extend our number knowledge through addition, subtraction and sharing.

Thank you parents for all of your support and help with your child's home learning. If you have any traditional tales from your culture that you would like to share, please email your class teacher. We would love to share them with the children after half term.

The Reception Team.



Year 1

Year 1

The incredible year 1 children never cease to amaze us with their adaptable and aspirational attitudes to learning, and this term has been no exception. Going into lockdown has been challenging for many of us, however the year 1 children have embraced the home learning and continue to be the best that they can be. We are proud of you year 1!

*This term the children have really developed their understanding of story structure and punctuation. We were very impressed with their use of beginnings, middles and ends in their innovations of the text *On Sudden Hill*. In Maths the children have learnt about time, confidently recalling o'clock and half past, months of the year and days of the week. In our curriculum subjects we have learnt about the history of toys, developed a love of art by learning about different artists and investigated the properties of different materials in science.*

A few polite reminders:

Please continue to access Bugclub and Numbots at home.

When writing, encourage your child to sound out the words independently using their phonics to help them.

Thank you for your ongoing support this term.

The Year 1 Team.

Year 2

Year 2

This term we all had to get used to the new way of working. We have had some children with us at school but the majority have been working from home. All the children have worked extremely hard and made us really proud!

We did a variety of activities in English. We used pictures as stimuli for our weekly writing tasks. Many children wrote great descriptions of a park in winter and created stories about a girl travelling in a bath on the surface of the ocean! We spent quite some time discussing a poem called 'What is pink?', too. The children thought of objects that are associated with particular colours and then wrote their own versions of the poem. It was great to see many creative ideas and plenty of adjectives being used!

In Maths we have looked at 2D and 3D shapes and their properties as well as money. We have also been practising our arithmetic skills daily using calculation methods we have learned at school.

In other areas, we have studied our local area in Geography. We looked at physical and human features of our area. It was great to see children working from home sending us some photos and videos of these features. We have also learnt more about plants and life cycles in Science and created our own versions of Van Gogh's Sunflowers in Art. As well as this, we have been thinking about our wellbeing at this difficult time.

All the Year 2 team are extremely impressed with the learning both at school and at home across the year group this term. We would like to say a huge THANK YOU to all the parents and carers supporting their children with home learning. We understand that it has its challenges but it really does make a difference to the children's progress.

We hope you all have a well-earned rest and enjoy the half-term. We look forward to welcoming the children back at school as soon as it is possible. In the meantime, stay safe and healthy everyone!

The Year 2 Team.

Year 3

Year 3

Once again, we would like to say a massive THANK YOU to all the parents/carers for all your support. We understand that home learning has its challenges, but your continued effort makes a difference in the children's progress. One evident thing is that the children have worked extremely hard and have made all of the Year 3 team very proud! We have been impressed with the learning both in and out of school across the year group this term.

In English, we have done a variety of tasks where we received some beautiful descriptive writing, amusing diary entries and very thrilling short stories. We spent quite some time pulling apart: 'The Hurricane' focusing on rich vocabulary, and its effect and impact. We then dived into our thesauruses to make deliberate word choices, recognising when a word is appropriate or inappropriate. We have also focused a lot on grammar and punctuation, using first-person consistently, speech punctuation and subordinate clauses to expand descriptions. The handwriting that we have seen has been fantastic, and we would really love it if pupils continue to write as much as possible, practising their joining and letter sizes at home.

In Maths, we have looked at Time and Multiplication and Division of larger numbers. We have also practised our arithmetic skills daily, mastering those calculation methods that we have learned at school.

In Topic, we have studied Earth's structure, and the formation and features of mountains and volcanoes. Those working from home have sent in lots of lovely photos and videos and WOWED us all with all of the fantastic models they created. In Science, we have looked at magnets and learned how the Earth behaves like a magnet.

We hope you all have a well-earned rest and enjoy the half-term. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school as soon as it is possible. In the meantime, stay safe, everyone!

The Year 3 Team.

Year 4

Year 4

This has been a very different term for us all! We've have many challenges with getting to grips with home learning and having to be apart from one another. However, at Castle, we never stop learning! We've been working hard to develop our writing through poetry, story writing and persuasive texts. In Maths, we revisited our work on calculation before facing the challenge of fractions, which is no easy task even with your teacher next to you!

We've also seen a range of work based on our curriculum including Science, Geography, RE, Music, Art, Computing and Spanish!

We have been so impressed by some of the home learning that is being emailed to us and we are so incredibly grateful for all of the amazing support from parents. We look forward to another term of working together and we will hopefully have some incentives to spur you all on!

The Year 4 Team.

Year 5

Year 5

Hello Year 5! We cannot believe that we are already at February half term! This term we have all had to get used to a new way of learning and working, with lots of children working from home and some in schools. One thing that has been very clear in all this uncertainty is just how hard you have been working and we cannot emphasise just how pleased and proud of you we are Year 5!

As part of the remote learning, in English, we have looked at a range of pictures and used these as a stimulus for our writing, and we've really enjoyed reading your pieces of creative writing. We've also focused quite a lot on grammar, and you were tasked small individual focuses such as expanded noun phrases, auxiliary verbs, using semi colons and many many more! Small details but they are very important when it comes to writing bigger pieces.

In Maths, we looked at decimals and how to add, subtract and multiply before briefly moving onto factors. More recently we have looked at fractions and it was great to see you using your Times table knowledge to help you calculate and work out the answers to these questions.

As part of our Topic learning, in PSHE, it was lovely to read about your hopes and dreams for the future. We also looked at Living things and their habitats in Science, and we were very impressed with your fact files and learnt an array of fun facts. You then looked at life cycles of different animals, including insects and amphibians. In RE, we have continued to look at Sikhism and the key beliefs within that religion and what we can learn from it. In Geography, we looked at rivers and you either drew a picture of the water cycle, some of you conducted your own experiment and others created a 3D model, all the responses were brilliant.

As a final note, we would like you to know that everyone in Year 5 has been so impressed with the remote learning both at home and in school and your brilliant attitude towards it. We'd also like to take this opportunity to say a BIG thank you to all the parents/carers at home, who have supported the children so brilliantly, we know this hasn't been easy as many of you are also working from home.

We hope that you have a lovely half term after all your hard work and we look forward to welcoming you back in school as soon as it is safe and possible to do so.

Stay safe and take care,

Year 5 Team.

Year 6



As we are fast approaching the end of the first part of the Spring term, it is time to reflect upon the different ways in which Year 6 have adapted to their new ways of learning.

It has been wonderful to see how dedicated the children are to their learning, through their designs for robots, investigating their pulse and how the human body works, their research into Greta Thunberg, demonstrating their different skills in Maths through to challenging themselves in Reading comprehensions. Who can forget the model lungs made from old plastic bottles! All of this together with thoughts of dreams and goals for themselves, their families and the world. It has been a wonderful term. Well done Year 6!

Here are some of their thoughts:

I like seeing my teachers on the screen and they get embarrassed seeing themselves. Dillon

I have really enjoyed PE because we are all still able to stay healthy during these times and it was fun learning about fitness. Aminata

I really enjoyed PSHE and learning about our goals and our dreams for what we want in the future in our lives. Cheryl

PSHE has been really good this term because I really want to become a teacher in the future. Lara-May

Every Friday we have a spelling test and I set myself the challenge of getting 8 or more in it! Farhan

Final note: Reading is such an important part of our day at Castle, we would really love to know what the children are reading at home. Could we please ask you/them to email us and let us know – we would love to know!

Thank you for all of your support and for sending in pictures of your child's learning to the class email, daily. Please ensure that this continues. Thank you.

The Year 6 Team.



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 not currently running. We will update you when bookings will resume.

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

You will receive a letter from us when we have further updates.

Dates for the Diary

Half Term

Monday 15th February 2021 - Friday 19th February 2021

Friday 12th February 2021 - Break for Half Term

Contact Us

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

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Piota Schools App

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