



NEWSLETTER



27/01/2023

Dear Families and Friends,

Astro Turf Installation

This week, we were extremely excited to see our new astro turf being laid on our playground! This School Council project has taken a lot of work but we are pleased to say that this is now complete, ready for us to play more safely in a more aesthetically pleasing environment. The School Council will also be purchasing some new equipment and storage facilities to alongside this new facility. This will include equipment to increase children's activity but also include 'quieter' and 'calmer' activities too, for those that may prefer this.

Christmas Mini Masterpiece Art Competition Winners

Over the last month, our children's artwork has been displayed online and at Danby Moors Centre art gallery, thanks to a competition being run by Ady Wright's Art Gallery, Whitby. Members of the public have been voting for their favourite pieces and, this week, the winners were announced for each category.

Online winner (Acorns): James

Online winner (Oaks): Ella

Danby Moors winner: Ryan

Our prize winners received a £30 The Works voucher which was kindly donated by Ady Wright's Gallery!

The artwork gained lots of positive feedback online and in the gallery. Sally, from Danby Moors Centre, was so impressed that she would like to give us this space again next year for a similar competition. Ady Wright, artist, loved looking through them and encourages our children to keep practising as they may also be an artist one day and have their work displayed in the National Gallery!

Well done to all that took part – entries will be returned shortly.

Board/Table Games Club

Board/Table Games Club started this week! Children really enjoyed learning the new games taught to them by Mrs Beadnall and Mrs Dixon, as well as playing some of their old favourites. There are still some places available for the club. If you wish to sign your child up, please complete this permission form:

<https://forms.gle/MGXvneQE39o4v3Jr5>

Please note: in future weeks, for children that are able to access this club, we may open up spaces to children in Acorns.

Next week's games will be: Diamant, Articulate and some new card games.

If you have any unwanted board/table games at home and would like to donate them to this club, please send them to the school office – thank you.

Wellbeing Club

As discussed in last week's newsletter, Redcar & Cleveland Mind are hoping to start a wellbeing club after February half-term for children aged 9-11. This club will aim to give children a safe space to talk about their mental health as well as the opportunity to speak 1:1 with a trained counsellor about any issues they may be having. This club will take place on Tuesdays and be open to children aged 9-11 but will likely prioritise those children who would most benefit from this support.

If you are interested in signing your child up to this club, please complete this form:

<https://forms.gle/cPekjuHcCVMi4Drw6> (Please note that this form does not guarantee a space in the club – it is a signal of interest. Final space allocation will be communicated in due course.)

Club Funding – Ainthorpe Trust Grant

Once again, we have received fantastic support from The Ainthorpe Trust, who have kindly agreed to provide us with a grant of £500 to support the establishment and resourcing of some of our new clubs, including Art Club, Gardening Club and Board/Table Games Club. This will really help us provide high-quality extra-curricular experiences for our children that build on their interest and go beyond what they may experience in a typical classroom. Thank you Ainthorpe Trust!

After School Care

As discussed in previous newsletters, we are hoping to provide after-school childcare in the very near future. We have now secured staffing for this and are in the process of confirming other logistics. We hope to have this in place in February.

The service will run from 3.15-5.15pm each day. Mrs (Sophie) Wilson will co-ordinate the club.

We would appreciate if parents could complete the following form, to let us know what time slots they would like to book when this service becomes available: <https://forms.gle/1JgwFNLc47addK378>

Please note: this will be a paid for service. For children attending between 3.15-4.15pm, parents will be charged £3. If a child attends after 4.15pm (until 5.15pm at the latest) the total charge for that child will be £5. There will be small discounts for additional siblings attending the club. Children will be provided with a small snack/drink as part of this service.

Please note: this club will be provided on a trial basis, so that we can understand its viability. This will continue until the end of the summer term, although we may make changes sooner if there are time slots that are not popular.

We will confirm the start date of this service in due course.

Swimming

Due to the cancellation of our swimming session on Monday 16th January, we have confirmed an additional session Monday 27th March.

Questionnaire Feedback

Thank you for all your positive responses, suggestions and feedback in our most recent parental questionnaire. The summary of this survey can be found at the end of this newsletter. Our next survey (due later in the term) will focus on our school oaths and how they reflect our unique identity. We will aim to survey other suggested areas later in the year, so that we do not 'bombard' parents with multiple surveys.

E-Safety - Snapchat

It has come to our attention that some of our older children are using social media sites/apps, such as Snapchat. We strive to ensure children stay safe online by providing a range of PSHE and E-safety lessons that encourage safe and respectful internet use. We will also be inviting a local police officer into school soon who will talk to children about what to look out for online.

We recognise that the world of technology is ever-evolving and that it is hard for adults to keep up-to-date with the latest apps and how they can keep their children safe at home. Therefore, you may find the following link useful. Here, you can sign up for a free poster explaining what Snapchat is and how it can be used safely/appropriately. <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides/snapchat-2021>

If you require more support on this, please do get in touch with the school.

Collection of children after school

Please let school know if your child has alternative collection arrangements after school (other than already named), for example, going with another parent/carer to another child's home after school.

Have a great weekend,

Mr Cooper





"Outstanding Together"



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Attendance: This week's attendance was **97.5%** which is significantly better than the national average of 93.7%
- Well done!

Our attendance this year is: 94.3%

Stars of the Week

Explorers: Barnaby – for listening carefully to instructions and for fantastic phonics all week!

Adventurers: Holly – for being a super self-manager and for working hard in all areas!

Headteacher timetable for next week	
Monday	Glaisdale all day
Tuesday	am – Castleton pm - Glaisdale
Wednesday	am – Castleton pm – Whitby Heads Meeting
Thursday	Supporting schools in Scarborough
Friday	am – Castleton all day

Next Week's Events

Monday **Swimming** for all children – please bring swimming kit and towel in a bag
Board/Table Games Club

Tuesday **Music Lessons** with Alix Lillie. Please remember instruments
Signing Club

Wednesday **No Outdoor Learning** Due to cricket lessons and swimming beginning again
Year 6 SATs Buster Club (8-9am)
Cricket Lessons Children may come to school in PE clothing
Website/Journalism Club

Thursday **Choir Club**

Friday **Art Club**

Future Diary Dates

Please note: some of these events may still need to be confirmed.

February

10th: End of half-term

24th: Year 3/4 Hockey Coaching

March

7th: Year 3/4 Hockey tournament

14th: Straws Cup Football competition (4-6pm)

24th: Training day

31st: End of term

Term Dates 2022/23

- ★ ~~Half Term – Monday 24th October to Friday 28th October~~
- ★ ~~Staff Training Day – Friday 9th December~~
- ★ ~~Last day of Autumn Term – Friday 16th December~~
- ★ ~~First Day of Spring Term – Tuesday 3rd January 2023~~
- ★ Half Term - Monday 13th February to Friday 17th February 2023
- ★ Staff Training Day - Friday 24th March 2023
- ★ Last day of Spring Term - Friday 31st March 2023
- ★ First day of Summer Term - Monday 17th April 2023
- ★ Bank Holiday - Monday 1st May 2023
- ★ Bank Holiday – Monday 8th May 2023
- ★ Half Term - Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June 2023
- ★ Last day of Summer Term - Monday 24th July 2023

Parental Survey Feedback – January 2023

The following summarises the feedback from the recent parental survey and, where appropriate, outlines the next steps school will take to act on this feedback. Feedback has been anonymised, so individual comments will not necessarily be reported.

Extending the School Day

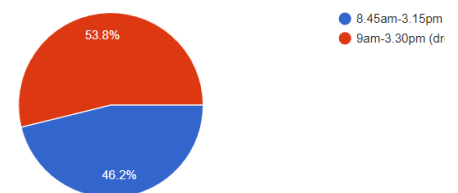
To align with the national requirement to provide 32.5 school hours per week by September 2023, we asked parents to comment on their preference for extending the school day. We have also asked staff and considered how this would best work for our children's curriculum.

We have decided that a 9am-3.30pm school day would provide the opportunity for a more rounded curriculum and better suit the majority of parents/staff. However, we recognise that there may be some exceptions to this.

Therefore, we will look to trial this new school day in due course (likely after Easter) to understand the impact of this on families. Confirmed arrangements will be communicated in due course via the school newsletter

Would you prefer a school day that ran:

13 responses



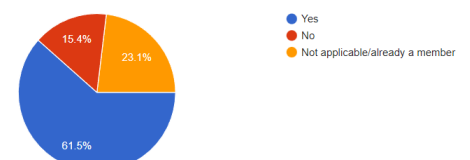
Joining the PTFA

We are pleased that the majority of our parents understand how they can join the PTFA. However, we recognise that some parents (especially those new to the school) may not know how to join.

If you are interested in joining the PTFA, please either: contact the school office or contact PTFA members (Jerry Risebrow; Jennifer Wall; Alix Lillie).

Are you aware of how you can join/help the PTFA?

13 responses





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Parents' Suggestions on Improving Children's Transition to Secondary School

- Extend the length of transition to several weeks over the summer term.
- Linking with other Year 6s at the other local small schools.
- Using teachers from the secondary school to teach lessons at Castleton.
- Using former students (e.g. Year 7s) who can link with our current Year 6s
- Making links with other non-Whitby secondary schools

Thank you for all your suggestions. Where these are practical, we will raise with the local secondary schools at the Whitby Area Heads Meeting (held termly). As you may be aware, especially if you have a child preparing for secondary school, there has been a change in circumstances regarding the Whitby secondary schools which may affect what transition looks like this year – we will communicate details of this once this has been made clear.

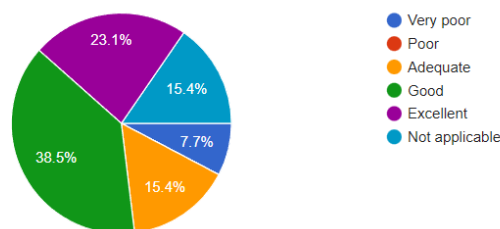
School Meals

Suggestions on how we could improve school lunches:

- Child-led menus
- Avoid foods that stain uniform
- Reducing sugary puddings, e.g. have fruit alternative
- Improved provision when our cook is ill
- Reduce the need for bread with meals
- Better value for money

How would you rate our school lunches in terms of: healthiness; taste; variety and value for money?

13 responses

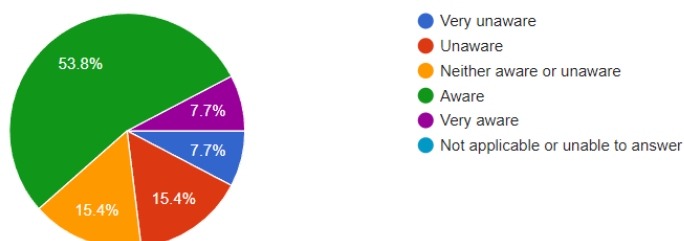


We are pleased to hear that the majority of applicable parents rate our meals as adequate or better. Your suggestions will be passed on to NYCC County Caterers, who decide on the menu. However, we will work with our School Council to gauge which meals children would like to see on the menu and providing these through, perhaps, a themed lunch day.

Behaviour Perceptions

We are delighted to hear that the parental perception of behaviour is extremely positive from the responses given. There has been an acknowledgement from some parents that this has improved a lot over the last academic year and that this coincides with a better understanding (from teachers, parents and children) of individual children's needs and how this may impact on behaviour. We recognise that there will still be isolated incidents of misbehaviour which we will work very hard to manage and improve.

School Oaths



We are pleased to hear that the majority of applicable parents are aware of our school oaths (which are displayed on the school gate). However, a significant proportion of our parents are not aware of these. Therefore, to review these oaths, and to ensure they reflect the personality of the school, our

next survey will review these. We will then look to make these more explicit to parents and children.

Trips

Again, we received very positive feedback on school trips at Castleton. However, the following suggestions were given, which we will take under consideration and look to act upon:

- Increase visits for Acorns
- School newspaper club visiting the Whitby Gazette
- Using the local area as much as possible
- Visiting cities as much as possible

Clubs

This is an area that we have made a concentrated effort to improve at the start of this term, along with the help of the School Council. This has allowed us to already act on some of the feedback given in this survey. However, the following additional suggestions were provided:

- Increase clubs for Acorns
- Homework Club (or achieve this at a wraparound club)
- Martial arts club in the future

Next Survey Ideas

- Break time snacks
- Special meals throughout the year
- Thoughts on how they think their child is getting on at school
- How to involve the school with the local community
- Impact of cost of living
- Uniform
- Extra-curricular
- Music/arts
- Performances

Where appropriate, we will look to work on some of these before our next survey. However, later in the year, we will aim to survey parents on as many of these areas as possible.

Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback, suggestions and your general positivity!