



"Outstanding Together"

NEWSLETTER



03/02/2023

Dear Families and Friends,

Astro Turf Installation

On Monday, our astro turf was finished ready for our use! I hope you all agree that this is a much safer and attractive space for children to play sport and enjoy their breaks. See the before and after pictures below! Well done to our School Council for making this happen.



Journalism/Website Club – Volunteer Required

Our journalists and website designers are really enjoying their club on a Wednesday afternoon. They have been writing cutting-edge articles, including an interview with Mrs Zanelli regarding the possible closure of Eskdale School. Next week, the club will be 'taking over' the school newsletter!

This is currently being led by Mr and Mrs Kevan, however, after half-term, we would like another parent volunteer to come and help with this club. If you are interested, please contact Mr Cooper.

Children attending the club can access their articles at home via <https://castletongazette.com/> Children have their own login details and have been encouraged to share this at home. We are hoping to have the full website live in the near future for all to see.

Wellbeing Club

Wellbeing Club will begin on Tuesday 21st February 2023. Children whose parents have signed them up for this club will have received additional consent forms from Redcar & Cleveland Mind (the organisation running the club). Please ensure these are completed and returned to school ahead of the first club session.

After School Care

Additional, paid-for after-school care will be trialled after half-term. This will be run by Mrs (Sophie) Wilson each day at the cost of £3 between 3.15-4.15pm and £5 for any child attending after 4.15pm (up until 5.15pm).

Please note: all other school clubs will still be free of charge. This is provision for those children that are not attending a club and/or requiring care after a club has finished.

If you would like to book your child in for this provision, please contact the School Office.

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.

PTFA (Parent Teacher Friends Association)

We are very friendly and all parents, teachers and friends are more than welcome to join us. Please come along to find out more. Our next meeting is on Wednesday 8th February, 7:30pm at the Downe Arms.

Year 4 Multiplication Check Parents Meeting – via Zoom – 7th February 2023 (5pm)

You may be aware that all Year 4 children undertake a national multiplication check in June to determine whether they can recall their times tables fluently up to 12x12 which is essential for their future success in maths.

We will be hosting a parents Zoom meeting for all Year 4 parents across Castleton, Glaisdale, Oakridge and Lealholm, led by Mr Wood (maths lead), to explain how the check works and to provide ways you could support your child at home, as well as answer any questions.

There will be a virtual meeting held via Zoom, which you can access through the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85036611556?pwd=OHdUeHhwNjhFWnNYMDlXU3hLQzRiUT09>

Meeting ID: 850 3661 1556

Passcode: kfKEQ7

The meeting will begin at 5pm and will take approximately 30 minutes.

End of half-term

Please remember: school breaks up for half-term next Friday (10th February) at 3.15pm. Children will return to school on Monday 20th February 2023.

Have a great weekend,

Mr Cooper



Attendance: This week's attendance was **94.1%** which is better than the national average of 93.7% - Well done! Our attendance this year is: 94.2%

Stars of the Week

Acorns: Dylan – for an amazing week, taking part in a range of learning activities, including writing!

Oaks: Ivan - for being a fantastic participator who always takes an enthusiastic approach to learning.

Headteacher's Award: Rue – for showing bravery to join in with older pupils on the playground



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Headteacher timetable for next week	
Monday	am – Glaisdale pm - Castleton
Tuesday	am – Oakridge pm - Glaisdale
Wednesday	am – Castleton pm – Lealholm
Thursday	Castleton all day
Friday	am – Glaisdale pm - Castleton

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

W/C 27th: Parents Evenings

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

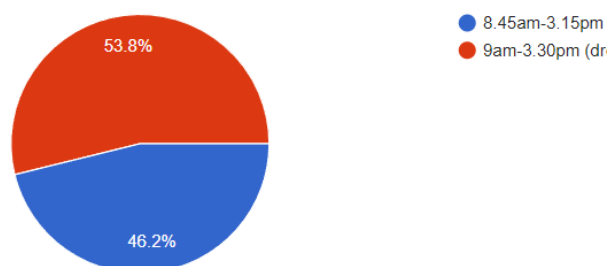
To align with the national requirement to provide 32.5 school hours per week by September 2023, we asked parents to comment on their preference for extending the school day. We have also asked staff and considered how this would best work for our children's curriculum.

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:

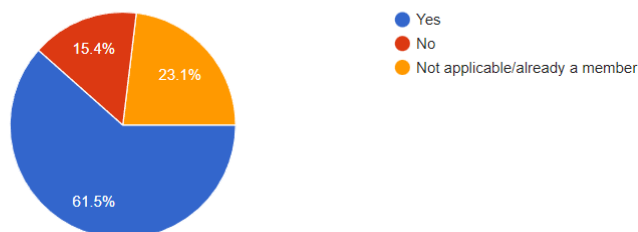
13 responses



Joining the PTFA

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

13 responses



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).

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



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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.

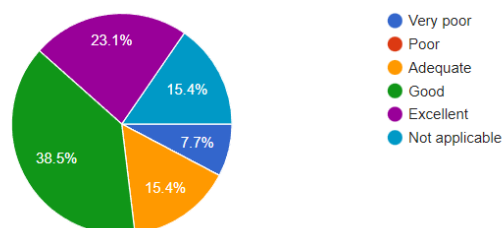
School Meals

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

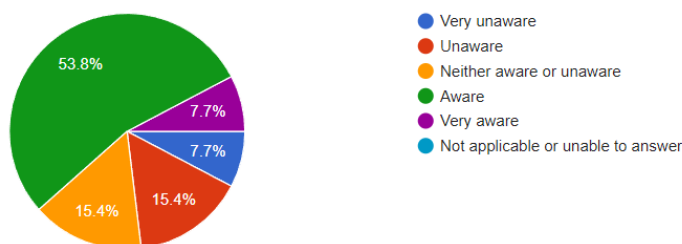


We are pleased to hear that the majority of applicable parents rate our meals as adequate or better. Your suggestions will be passed on to NYCC County Caterers, who decide on the menu. However, we will work with our School Council to gauge which meals children would like to see on the menu and providing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