



NEWSLETTER

08/09/2023



Dear Families and Friends,

Welcome Back!

It has been a pleasure to see 50 happy, enthusiastic and well-rested children this week. Everyone at Castleton has 'hit the ground running', exploring their new topics. A special mention must be made to our new starters in Acorns who have done a wonderful job settling into their school!

Last year was extremely successful in a range of ways for the school and we wish continue to build on this. You can find, below, some of the upcoming changes to our practice which will allow the school to be an even better place to nurture our children.

Class Dojo

In the coming weeks, we will be moving more of our communication over to the home-school communication/behaviour application, Class Dojo. Some of you will be familiar with this, especially if your child used this during remote learning. We currently use this in school as a way to track children's 'Dojo points' for positive effort and behaviour. However, Class Dojo also has other capabilities which will allow us to better communicate between school and home. This includes class pages which can only be accessed by parents of children in the class, which can provide updates on homework and reminders on what children may need for school. There is also a whole-school page with an events calendar which we will start to populate with the key dates parents need to know. This area will also provide timed reminders of upcoming events.

One of the final key features of Class Dojo is the direct messaging system between parent and teacher. We hope to use this feature for any general home-school communication. However, this will not be used outside of working hours and should not be used for urgent updates (e.g. when a child is being collected by a different adult).

In the coming weeks, you will receive login details to your child's account (some of you may be able to access existing accounts already). Please can we encourage you to download the Class Dojo app to your smart devices, in readiness. You can find more information about Class Dojo here: <https://www.classdojo.com/>

Please note: Class Dojo is a free application, there is no need to purchase any of the additional add-ons which may be available for home learning.

Poverty Proofing

Another way we are looking to improve the school experience is through 'poverty proofing'. Those of you that were with us last year may recall we conducted a poverty audit, to see how school costs impact upon our families and so that we can consider alternatives to events that cause unnecessary cost or stress, especially to those families that may be suffering from poverty or the cost of living crisis – things which affect a larger proportion of our community than we realised before the audit.

You will receive a letter from the Yorkshire Endeavour Academy Trust's CEO outlining further information on the changes we are making and why we are doing so. As stated in this letter, we recognise that some of these changes may be difficult to adjust to at first and may feel like we are missing out on some of the most memorable parts of the school calendar, however, please be reassured that we will endeavour to find alternatives that will allow all children to access these.

This week, we have shared some of these upcoming changes with our children, who have been extremely mature and understanding of why we are making these, despite being slightly disappointed that some of the





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things they have done previously may change. It was emphasised amongst children that we will still continue to mark special events and continue to do the things they enjoy in school but that these may look a little different, so that all children can access.

Forest Schools

Acorns' Forest School sessions will start on Wednesday 13th September. These will take place fortnightly, unless otherwise stated.

Year 3/4's first Forest School session will take place on Monday 11th September with Mrs Barber.

Year 5/6's first Forest School session will take place on Monday 18th September with Mrs Barber.

Future Forest School sessions for Oaks will be communicated in due course.

On days when children have these sessions, they may come to school in their appropriate outdoor clothing/footwear, which they can wear throughout the day. They will not require uniform.

PE

Acorns will have PE sessions every Monday (starting from 11th September) with Mr Sellers.

Acorns will also have PE sessions on alternate Wednesdays (starting from 20th September) on weeks they do not have Forest School. These will be led by Mrs Wardell (our PE specialist from Glaisdale School and previous Head of Sport at Bridlington Secondary School).

Oaks will have PE sessions on Tuesdays (with Mrs Wardell) and Fridays (with Mr Sellers), every week.

Children should come to school in appropriate PE clothing/footwear on the days they have PE. They may wear this throughout the day and do not require uniform.

Clubs

You will have received a separate e-mail regarding after-school clubs, which (apart from Choir) begin next week. Please complete the online form to sign your children up to these clubs. The links for these can also be found below.

Tuesday 3.30-4.30pm - Wellbeing Club led by Redcar and Cleveland Mind – for children in Year 5/6:

<https://forms.office.com/e/fxA6hdSEmb>

Wednesday 3.30-4.30pm – Signing Club led by Ms (Sophie) Wilson – open to all children:

<https://forms.office.com/e/wwf81tRzeZ>

Thursday 3.30-4.30pm – Choir led by Miss H Wilson – open to Year 1-6 (starting 21/09/23):

<https://forms.office.com/e/WBuzgPA2kk>

Friday 3.30-4.30pm – Sports Club led by Mr Sellers – open to children in Oaks:

<https://forms.office.com/e/VizjaGXyWi>

Paid-for After-school Care

We recognise that the clubs above may not be of interest to some children or do not cover their age group. Last year, we sent a questionnaire regarding interest in a paid-for after-school provision. We had some interest but





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no uptake when this became available (possibly due to parents' work commitments changing or the range of clubs on offer). As we have some new families and, possibly, changing circumstances, we would like to know if there is any further interest in paid-for after-school care. Please complete the following form if you have firm interest in this: <https://forms.office.com/e/Vv1X6CU8G>

We will communicate whether this provision is viable following the collection of responses. Please contact Mr Cooper if you have any further questions regarding this.

Supermobile Library Visit

On Thursday 14th September, children will be visiting the Supermobile library van. Children in Years 1-6 who selected books from the van before the summer should bring these back to school on this date along with their library cards, so they can complete their Summer Reading Challenge.

Oaks Class History – World War II

The Oaks are studying World War II in their history lessons. We would be very grateful for any resources relating to the conflict and to the 'Home Front' - rationing, evacuation, changing roles and responsibilities etc. We would use these as sources of information and to create a display in our classroom. If you have anything you would be able to share with us, or know someone who would be willing to talk about their experience during WWII, please get in touch.

Save the Date: 'Tub-up' Music Workshop and Performance – Wednesday 11th October

The whole school will be taking part in a 'Tub-up' music workshop on Wednesday 11th October, led by an external provider: <https://tubup.org/>

Children will spend part of the day making their own ukulele from recycled materials and then practising a song to perform to their parents at the end of the day (in the Village Hall).

We will require some parent volunteers to support during the day (especially with our younger children). If you are interested, please let Miss Wilson or Mrs Moore know.

All parents/family members are invited to the assembly and short ukulele performance at 2.55pm (at the Village Hall).

Year 1 Parents: Tapestry

As your child is now in Year 1, their Tapestry account using to track their development in the Early Years Foundation Stage will now close. Your child's account will be deactivated on 15th September. Please feel free to use the account in the meantime and download any images and observations for your own records.

Have a great weekend,

Mr Cooper

Attendance: Our attendance this week was: 100% - well done!

Our final attendance for last year: 94.2%.

National average for last year: 94.0%





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Stars of the Week:

Oaks: Ernest – for excellent listening and super participation in class discussion.

Acorns: Lucy – for being 'ready' for learning and demonstrating good focus and concentration.

Headteacher: Maddy – for independently demonstrating our new school rule 'be respectful'.

Headteacher timetable for first week back

Mon	am – Glaisdale pm – Castleton
Tues	Glaisdale all day
Weds	am – Castleton pm - Glaisdale
Thurs	Supporting schools in Scarborough
Fri	Castleton all day

Next Week's Events

- Monday** **Year 3/4 Forest School** – please arrive in appropriate kit/footwear
Acorns PE – please arrive in PE kit
- Tuesday** **Wellbeing Club** – Year 5/6 only
- Wednesday** **Acorns Forest Schools** – please arrive in appropriate kit/footwear
Signing Club
- Thursday** **No Choir Club** – will start next week
School visit to the Supermobile Y1-6 children to return books and bring library card
- Friday** **Oaks PE** Please arrive in PE kit
Sports Club for Oaks Class

Term Dates 2023/24

- ★ ~~Staff Training Day – Monday 4th September 2023~~
- ★ ~~Staff Training Day – Tuesday 5th September 2023~~
- ★ ~~First day of Autumn Term – Wednesday 6th September 2023~~
- ★ Half Term - Monday 30th October to Friday 3rd November 2023
- ★ Staff Training Day - Friday 15th December 2023
- ★ Last day of Autumn Term - Friday 22nd December 2023
- ★ First Day of Spring Term – Monday 8th January 2024
- ★ Half Term - Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February 2024
- ★ Staff Training Day - Friday 15th March 2024
- ★ Last day of Spring Term - Friday 22nd March 2024
- ★ First day of Summer Term - Monday 8th April 2024
- ★ Bank Holiday – Monday 6th May 2024
- ★ Half Term - Monday 27th May to Friday 31st 2024
- ★ Last day of Summer Term - Monday 22nd July 2024





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Future Diary Dates

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

September

- 11/09: Year 3/4 Forest School
- 13/09: Acorns Forest School
- 14/09: School visiting the Supermobile
- 18/09: Year 5/6 Forest School
- 21/09: Zambia Schools Trust Assembly
- 27/09: Acorns Forest School

October

- 05/10: Key Stage 2 Trip to Eden Camp
- 11/10: Tub-up Music Workshop (parent volunteers may be required)
- 25/10: Acorns Forest School

Future Dates

- 20/03-22/03 – Year 3/4 Peat Rigg Visit
 - 13/05-17/05 – Year 6 SATs Week
 - 10/06-14/06 – Year 1 Phonics Screen Week
 - 22/07 – YEAT Arts Extravaganza
- Please avoid booking term time holidays, especially during assessment weeks.*

