



# NEWSLETTER

22/12/2023



Dear Families and Friends,

## Mr Wadley

As outlined in a separate letter earlier in the week, sadly, Mr Wadley has decided he is unable to return to Castleton and has therefore handed in his notice. He hopes to come in to school to say a final goodbye in 2024. Mr Wadley passes on his very best to everyone in the Castleton Family.

## Teaching Assistant Vacancy

With Mr Wadley's resignation, we are looking for a new team member (advanced/higher-level teaching assistant) to begin as soon as possible or by February half-term. If you are interested in this vacancy (or know someone who is), please follow/share this link:

<https://nycjobs.engageats.co.uk/Vacancies/W/2878/0/414135/19927/castleton-primary-school-advanced-teaching-assistant-and-or-higher-level-teaching-assistant>

## Temporary Teaching Assistant

At the time of writing, we have not been able to confirm a temporary teaching assistant to continue supporting Oaks in January. However, we have several interested candidates, and we will work hard over the Christmas period to fill this temporary role in time for children's return to school.

## Parental Survey

We are interested in gaining your views on a range of school provision areas. In particular, as we approach our long overdue Ofsted inspection, we are keen to gauge your views on the areas which they investigate from a parental point of view and use these to improve our practice.

Using the Ofsted's four grading descriptors (Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement, Inadequate), we currently self-assess ourselves as 'Good'. However, we are very keen to strive towards the 'Outstanding' judgement which we received in our last inspection (June 2013), albeit under a very different inspection framework. Your feedback will help us achieve this.

We are also asking you additional questions not relating to the Ofsted areas of inspection. These have come from a variety of school community members. Thank you in advance.

Please use this link to access the survey: <https://forms.office.com/e/t6VzhEJnhG>

## Christmas Performances and Carols round the Tree

It was fantastic to see so many of you and other community members at our Christmas events this week! I am sure you will all agree that our children/musicians performed amazingly and showed the very best of what Castleton has to offer.

A big thank you to everyone who helped support these events in a range of ways, whether that was donating prizes to raffles; helping children with rehearsing lines/songs or providing costumes/props. It was heart-warming to see the community come together for all of these events.

A special mention, once again, must go to our PTFA (and anyone who aided them!) for supporting these events. They managed to raise a total of £514.40 which will go towards a range of activities and resources at school. (Don't forget you can have a say on what the PTFA spends their money on in the future by completing our current survey – see above!)

## PE Lessons after Christmas

With a change in staffing, our PE days after Christmas have altered.

Oaks will have a weekly PE session with Mrs Wardell on Friday afternoons. Acorns will have a weekly PE session with Mrs Wardell and/or Mrs Porter/Mrs Barber on Wednesday mornings. Please ensure children come to school in appropriate PE clothing and footwear on these days.



**National Nurturing**  
School Award  
2023





# NEWSLETTER

22/12/2023



We are having a slightly reduced PE timetable for the first half-term due to have an increased scheduled in the summer when we go swimming and have forest school sessions.

Forest school sessions will recommence when the weather improves. We hope this will be in the second half of the spring term. We will communicate the exact start date and any other changes when they are confirmed.

## Clubs

With a change of staffing, and to allow Acorns the opportunity to experience more clubs, we will have a change to our club schedule after Christmas. For new clubs or clubs which are changing days, we require an updated consent form – please see links below.

Monday	No clubs	
Tuesday	Wellbeing Club	Led by R&C Mind (3.30pm – 4.30pm) Children eligible for this are already signed up.
	Year 6 SATs Buster	Led by Mr Cooper (8-9am)
Wednesday	Acorns Art Club	New club being led by Mrs Wardell (3.30-4.30pm) Sign up using this link: <a href="https://forms.office.com/e/MrQN0UYFkW">https://forms.office.com/e/MrQN0UYFkW</a>
Thursday	Choir Club	Led by Miss Wilson (3.30-4.30pm) No need to sign up – consent already given
Friday	Signing Club	Led by Mrs (Sophie) Wilson (3.30-4.30pm) New date for this club, so consent is required using this link: <a href="https://forms.office.com/e/99hi43QWFe">https://forms.office.com/e/99hi43QWFe</a>

Please note: all clubs will commence in the first week back after Christmas except for Choir Club which will commence on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

If you are struggling to arrange childcare after school hours, please approach Mr Cooper to discuss possible alternative options. In the past, we have surveyed parents to see if there is interest in paid-for after-school care, with limited interest. However, if demand increases, we will review this option.

## Goodbye and Good Luck, Mr Sellers!

Finally, and sadly, I want to wish Mr Sellers the very best luck for his new role at Caedmon Primary School. We know he will be fantastic and have the same positive impact on them as he has on Castleton. We are all very grateful for Mr Sellers' service over the last two and half years and we know Mrs Wardell has 'big boots to fill'!

## End of Term

School is now closed for the Christmas break. We reopen again on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January.

Merry Christmas and thank you for all your support over the term!

Mr Cooper





# NEWSLETTER

22/12/2023



**Attendance:** Our attendance this week was: 87.0%

Our attendance this year: 94.6%

National average this year: 94.9%

## Stars of the Week:

Acorns: Juniper – for performing so well to an audience during our nativity!

Oaks: The whole class – for supporting Mr Sellers for two and a half years!

Headteacher: The entire early years group – for a fantastic first term at Castleton! I am so proud with how you have all settled into life at Castleton.

Headteacher timetable for the upcoming week	
Mon	am – Castleton pm - Glaisdale
Tues	Castleton all day
Weds	am – Castleton pm - Glaisdale
Thurs	am – Glaisdale pm - Castleton
Fri	Castleton all day

## Next Week's Events

- Monday** Children return to school
- Tuesday** Year 6 SATs Buster Club (8-9am) still on despite panto trip  
Wellbeing Club led by Redcar & Cleveland Mind  
Music Lessons
- Wednesday** Acorns PE please arrive in appropriate kit/footwear  
Acorns Art Club
- Thursday** No Choir Club Will recommence 18/01
- Friday** Oaks PE please arrive in appropriate kit/footwear  
Signing Club



**National Nurturing**  
School Award  
2023





# NEWSLETTER

22/12/2023



## Term Dates 2023/24

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

## Future Diary Dates

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

### January

08/01: Children return to school

### Future Dates

06/03 – Acorns Author Visit

11/03-13/03 – Eskdale Festival

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

03/07 – Choir Really Big Sing Event

22/07 – YEAT Arts Extravaganza

*Please avoid booking term time holidays, especially during assessment weeks.*

## Term Dates 2024/25

- Staff Training Day – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024
- Staff Training Day – Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024
- First day of Autumn Term – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024
- Half Term - Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024
- Staff Training Day - Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2024
- Last day of Autumn Term - Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024
- First Day of Spring Term – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025
- Half Term - Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025
- Staff Training Day - Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2025
- Last day of Spring Term - Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025
- First day of Summer Term – **Tuesday** 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025
- Bank Holiday – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025
- Half Term - Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> 2025
- Last day of Summer Term - Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025
- Staff Training Day – Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025



**National Nurturing**  
School Award  
2023

