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**Message from Mrs Hird**

Once again, it has been lovely to see so many happy children in school this week and I’ve given out so many Headteacher’s Awards that I’ve almost run out! There will be an opportunity to discuss how well your child has settled back in during our parents’ evening meetings next week.

Please take note of the reminder below regarding covid testing; the key point being that if a member of your household has any covid symptoms, the whole household must isolate and a PCR test must be requested. The lateral flow home testing kits are only for people who do not have symptoms.

If your child develops covid symptoms whilst in school, we will ask you to collect them immediately. Please can you therefore ensure that we have up to date contact details where we can reach you throughout the school day.

Another reminder is regarding school pick up times. If there are any changes to the collection arrangements for your child, please can you let a member of staff know.

Thank you for your support. Have a lovely weekend.

*Mrs Hird*

**IMPORTANT: Covid Testing**

The home-testing lateral flow kits are **ONLY** for use by people who are **asymptomatic**.

If your child or someone within your household develops covid symptoms, the entire household must isolate and **a PCR test must be arranged.** A negative lateral flow (home testing) kit **cannot be accepted** as a negative response for people with symptoms and the usual testing and isolation guidance must be followed until a negative PCR result is received.

Lateral flow test kits are now being made available to families who wish to carry out routine **asymptomatic**testing in their own household. These kits are not available from school. If you wish to order any kits, please visit the website below to see how you can obtain these.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff#how-to-get-a-rapid-lateral-flow-test>

**Parents Evenings Next Week**

Apologies for the short notice but there are parent evenings next week, as follows:-

* **Acorn Class** on Monday (1.30pm to 3pm) Tuesday (3.30pm to 5pm) and Thursday (2pm to 4.30pm)
* **Oak Class** on Wednesday and Thursday (2.30pm to 5pm)

As previously, appointments need booking through MCAS: <https://www.mychildatschool.com/MCAS/MCSParentLogin> Parents Evening is listed down the left. It opens on the first available day so please choose the day you want to book by clicking on the drop down arrow in the box, up on the left.

The meetings can be via Zoom or telephone and are strictly 10 minutes. Please email admin to let us know which you prefer. For Zoom, teachers will set up a meeting code which we will email out to you. When you use this to enter the meeting, you will be taken to a waiting room and teachers will allow you entry from here. Please could you make sure that you change your screen name to your child’s name so you can easily be identified!

**Attendance:** This week’s attendance was **98.23%** so, again, above our target of at least **97%.**

**News from the Classes**

**Acorns** have had another busy week in class with English and maths following on from last week.

We had great fun looking at exciting experiments to celebrate British Science week and hadn’t realised just how powerful and magical water could be!

Years 1 and 2 have been super Design Technology engineers by planning and beginning the construction of their Roly Poly toys: a really enjoyable task which some of the Reception children have been inspired to copy.

The Reception children have continued to explore and really enjoy more of the new ‘loose parts’ resources that we have introduced. Loose parts enable and encourage so much more imagination and language to be employed through their play, which in turn facilitates self-directed learning that can be supported by staff. All learning becomes so much more meaningful and valuable this way.

Following on from our learning about the Easter Story, this week we have discussed all the different ways that families celebrate Easter. We enjoyed a class Easter Egg Hunt too!

We had a wonderful return to the woodland for our forest school learning and it was so lovely to see the whole school spreading out and enjoying the natural wonders around us in the special outdoor space. There has been a whole season change since we last visited and there is evidence of that all around.

The **Acorn Star of the Week** is **Jacob** for engaging in all tasks this week; taking turns, being patient and using lots of speech.

The highlight for **Oaks** this week was definitely getting outdoors and up to the forest, where we looked for signs of Spring and were blessed with sunshine for the second half of the session.

They have continued to work hard with decimals and fractions this week in maths, plus remembering arithmetic calculations strategies.

The children have reported some strange occurrences that happened at school on Monday when strange green slime appeared in the classroom. Their newspaper reports were fantastic!



The **Oak Stars of the Week** are **Philomena** for always working hard and putting in tremendous effort and **Jessica** for her newspaper writing work this week.

**“Early Birds”**

This week at Breakfast Club the new activity packs arrived and the children had great fun creating a village complete with Plasticine people. Thursday is now our regular Pancake Day. What a treat!

**Red Nose Day**

We have had Superheroes in school today (staff and children!) and lots of “red” for our non-uniform day raising money for Comic Relief. Thank you for the donations we have had so far and you are still able to donate on the JustGiving fundraising page below:-

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/castleton-school>

**Online concert - Makaton Singalong**

We were delighted to be invited to participate in the Makaton Singalong, organised by Remarkable Arts and the Centre for Early Music, and several Castleton pupils will feature in the online 'Let's Rock' concert, which is this Saturday 6-7pm.

The concert features around 70 young people making music and the Makaton Singalong is the finale. If you just want to watch the Makaton Singalong, this will be available from Monday (we will send the link out next week).

Youtube link - <https://youtu.be/vdfoOQQqHJc>

You can also watch on the website at - <https://www.remarkablearts.net/>

We hope you enjoy spotting our Castleton pupils! Thank you to Sophie, Mrs Walley and all the staff for their support with this.

**Down Syndrome Awareness – Wear Odd Socks on Monday**

This week has been DownSyndrome Awareness week and incorporates World Down Syndrome Day on Sunday. **We are supporting this in school on Monday, 22nd March by encouraging the wearing of odd socks** and donations of £1. We will be reading stories and making something out of odd socks so could you please send any spare socks in! Thank you.

**Choir After School Club – Commencing Monday, 12th April**

Miss Wilson is planning on starting Choir after school on the first Monday back after Easter. Due to current restrictions, and in order for social distancing and safety, it will be for **Oak pupils only**. The Acorn choir members won’t miss out though as Miss Wilson will hold a weekly singing assembly in class!

Hopefully, as restrictions are further eased the after school choir club will be able to run with more children.

Thank you for your understanding.

If you had already signed a permission slip for January then you do not need to do another. Slips are being sent home with other children today and should be completed and returned by the end of next week.

We will confirm the position with the other After School Clubs as soon as possible.

**Yorkshire Endeavour Academy Trust AGM – 23rd March**

Yorkshire Endeavour Academy Trust will be holding the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 23rd March 2021 at 5.30pm. Details available on the Trust Website at

<https://www.yeat.co.uk/about-our-trust/governance/notice-of-annual-general-meeting-agm/>

or contact company Secretary, Sharon Markham via email [companysecretary@yeat.co.uk](mailto:companysecretary@yeat.co.uk)  for full details and how to join the meeting.

**Next Week**

**Parents Evenings – details above**

**Monday** Music Lessons with Alix Lillie. **Please remember instruments.**

Down Syndrome Awareness Day – wear odd socks

**Wednesday** **All pupils** **Outdoor learning**. Children can come to school dressed in appropriate clothing - lots of warm layers, with waterproofs, wellies and gloves. 

**Thursday** **PE for** **all pupils**. Children to come in uniform.

Please make sure they have their PE kit in school which should be left for Friday.

**Friday Dance for all pupils.** Children to come in uniform.

**Break up for Easter**

**Children return to school on Monday, 12th April**