



# NEWSLETTER



16.07.21

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## Message from Mrs Hird

I'm not quite sure where this academic year has gone; it barely seems two minutes since I was writing my welcome message back in September! Whilst it has been a challenging year in many ways, I hope you will agree that the school has continued to develop and improve its provision to our pupils and that, despite the circumstances, the team have been able to provide lots of memorable opportunities for our young learners. From virtual harvest and Christmas celebrations in the autumn term; through to the spring home learning period with some lovely stories and lessons over Zoom; and onto sports day, canoeing, seaside trips, farm visits and moorland adventures during the summer term, it has certainly been an exciting year! Throughout it all, our children have shown incredible resilience and positivity, as have our families and staff, and I am truly proud of all that Team Castleton have achieved.

Our final week of the year promises to bring further excitement, including our Whitby trip and leavers' celebration. We will also be saying farewell to Mrs Walley and Mrs Medcalf this week and know that you will join with us in wishing them well for the future.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Hird

## Message from Chair of Yorkshire Endeavour Academy Trust Board

As we approach the end of term, Trustees have asked me to extend our appreciation for the understanding and kindness you have shown towards staff in this last year.

I think we are all in agreement that the COVID pandemic has presented significant challenges to everyone in our communities and I suspect will continue to do so for some time to come.

This time of year is one of celebration, whether that is recognising sporting talent in annual sports days or participating in leavers' assemblies. As you are no doubt aware, rules which are being relaxed for the general population and businesses/organisations impacted by government COVID legislation do not apply to the education sector, I'm afraid to say. This has resulted in parental/carers disappointment, particularly in our town schools where socially distancing students and large numbers of visitors to school just isn't possible.

In offering reduced contact events in line with government/LA guidance, I do hope that you are still able to embrace the spirit of celebration in these last weeks and continue to offer your support which is valued so much and has been so forthcoming throughout the last year.

Mathew Brown

**Attendance:** This week's attendance was **94.98%**, so below our target of at least **97%**.

## COVID measures

We will be continuing with our current COVID safety measures until the end of term and would like to thank you in advance for your continued support with wearing masks and socially distancing when on school grounds.

## News from the Classes

This week in the **Acorn** class we had our two transition days, which meant that we said a temporary goodbye to our Y2's for both days and welcomed our new Reception starters for the mornings. The current Reception and Y1 children also assumed their new positions in the classroom.

Everyone appears to have had the best time and slotted into their new year groups perfectly and we are all really looking forward to returning to them in September.

We will be sad, however, to say farewell to both Jacob, who leaves us to start a new adventure at his new school, and Helen Medcalf who has supported him during his time here. Helen has also supported so many PE lessons, Whitby schools' sporting events, afterschool sports clubs and Forest School sessions over the years and will be very much missed.

What a wonderful day we all had on Wednesday! 😊

In the morning, we had our final forest school session for this academic year. The woodland was so dark and atmospheric as all of the trees were in leaf but the sun shone through in the clearings. 🌲🌲🌞

We enjoyed a woodland picnic which included popcorn roasted on the fire.



Then we set off across the moor to Forest Farm where Mr and Mrs Lillie kindly showed us around their dairy farm. We learned what cows eat in the summer and winter months and saw some new-born calves in the fields with their mothers and other cows grazing. We got to help feed and bed-up some older calves and found out their names. Next we went to the milking parlour and we learnt how the milk makes its journey from the cow into the giant milk tank ready for collection. After that, we visited Daisy the Tamworth pig and gave her back a good scratch until she flopped over! Finally, we were treated to a refreshing ice lolly and a cuddle of the farm puppies - what a treat. We had a really lovely walk back through the fields to school.

Many thanks to Mr and Mrs Lillie for their time and kindness; we had a really lovely day! 🐶🐶🐶



Acorn **Stars of the Week** are:

**Matthew** for maximum effort and therefore making such amazing progress during swimming lessons this half term.

**Maggie** for super Aboriginal dot artwork and fantastic listening and concentration.





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The **Oak** children have enjoyed meeting Mr Sellers this week and getting to know him. They also loved their last forest school session and went off to plan birthday surprises in the woods. Popcorn was cooked on the fire and enjoyed by everyone, along with the obligatory hot chocolate!

The children ended the week by presenting what they have discovered in their Art Award and all children achieved their bronze level award. Well done to everyone for working so hard on this.

The **Oaks are all Stars of the Week** for welcoming Mr Sellers so well!



## Sports Day 2021 🏆



Thank you for supporting the re-scheduled Sports Day last Friday morning. All the children did so well and enjoyed the team games. Well done to the Blue team for winning and the other teams for earning all of their points.

There were some close finishes!



## Reminders for Trip to Whitby on Monday

All children need to bring their swimming kit in a separate bag (as we will leave these at the leisure centre). Also, in a rucksack that they can carry around: their own packed lunch (as school cannot provide these), a change of clothes in case they get wet, a towel for the beach, a sun hat and a waterproof coat. Please can they have their sun cream applied in the morning to last the day. Hopefully we will have good weather!

## Payments

Please could you make sure that all outstanding payments for Dinner Money, Breakfast Club, Music Lessons, Swimming etc. are made before we break up. Please email Mrs Blacklock if you need to check anything.

## Next Week

**There will be no music lessons or after school clubs.**

**Monday** Whole school trip to Whitby- beach etc in morning, followed by final swimming session.  
**Please see reminders above.**

**Wednesday** **All pupils Outdoor learning.** Children can come to school dressed in appropriate clothing.

**Thursday** **PE for all pupils.** Acorns to come dressed in PE kit and bring uniform with them.  
Oaks to come in uniform and make sure PE kit in school to change into.  
**Leaver's assembly** at 2.30pm

**Friday** **"Seaside" dinner** of Fish and Chips, followed by ice cream cone.  
Break up for summer.  
Children return to school on Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> September.