



"Outstanding Together"



NEWSLETTER

16/12/2022



Dear Families and Friends,

End of Term Message

What a fantastic term we have had! It is a pleasure to look back on all the achievement the school, staff and children have made over the last 3 months. It is a shame that the weather has interrupted some of our end of term events and trips but that is part of living and working in the countryside!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support over my first term at Castleton. I have thoroughly enjoyed working hard for our children and feel we have a bright and promising future ahead. I hope you feel the same and that you feel your views have been listened to and acted upon wherever possible. We have tried to introduce positive change wherever we can, whether that is through extending Breakfast Club hours; sourcing a cheaper uniform provider; running more trips, special events and performances or by making smaller changes that have a positive impact on school/home life, such as changing policy on PE kits, homework and water bottles. I hope to introduce further positive change in the new term by addressing some of the further feedback we have received regarding the larger class size we have in Oaks and providing additional clubs. I would like to gauge your views further on other issues too (please see below for a link to a new questionnaire).

This term, the staff, governors and I have worked hard to identify some key priorities for the school on its improvement journey. I would like to take this opportunity to share these with you (see below). Please note that this is not all that we plan to do to improve our school but highlights the key areas in our development planning to make Castleton even better for our children. Our priorities are:

- Further develop teaching and learning across the curriculum with a focus on the foundation subjects (subjects other than English, maths and science).
- To improve the progress of vulnerable/targeted groups of learners, including children in receipt of Pupil Premium; those with special needs or disabilities; children who previously attained the highest standards; children who speak English as an additional language.
- To promote even better behaviour, attitudes and attendance through a nurturing approach, creating children who are ready to be confident citizens in modern Britain.

Questionnaire

We would like to gauge your views on a range of issues, some of which have been raised by other parents. Please complete this questionnaire: <https://forms.gle/hhmnkz5QPbY9F4y17>

As before, we will feed this back to you (by the end of January). We will also host another 'Meet the Head' evening next term to take further feedback and discuss solutions to any other arising issues.

Thank you in advance.

Key Stage 2 Trip – Rearrangement Details

We were disappointed to have to cancel our Key Stage 2 trip to York. However, the likelihood would have been that we would have suffered delays or some children/staff not being able to attend at all. We have, fortunately, been in discussions with the activity providers about alternate dates in January. We will communicate this as soon as arrangements have been confirmed. Thank you for your understanding.

Clubs

You will soon receive (if you haven't already) some permission forms for some new clubs that we will be running in the new term. Signing Club and Choir Club will recommence in the week commencing 9th January 2023 and there is no need to sign up again for these – however contact the school office if your child would like to attend and has not signed up previously.

On Wednesdays (3.15-4.15pm), Mr and Mrs Kevan will be running a website/journalism club for children in Key Stage 2. The children will have the opportunity to make their own website where they will be able to display a school newspaper! This combines two different ideas the School Council requested, based on the feedback from other pupils, using aspects of computing and journalism in one encompassing club. To sign your child up to this club, please complete this online form: <https://forms.gle/CEw1Q9m4FoPtQUAT7>

We are in the process of confirming other clubs for the new term too, including a Board Games club and some martial arts taster sessions from Evolution MMA. However, these are subject to ensuring we have enough volunteers and appropriate safeguarding checks in place.

Children's Termly Reports

On the previous parental feedback, the majority of parents requested a short termly report so that they could understand their child's current progress. After Christmas, once we have compiled the recent assessment information, we will be sending out this short report, outlining how well your child is achieving in English and maths, based on a nationally standardised assessment and teachers' own assessments (as we know this can sometimes vary). We will also report on your child's current attendance and how this compares locally/nationally. We hope you will find this a useful update – we would appreciate your feedback on this new system.

Pantomime

The weather did not affect our plans to visit Billingham's Forum Theatre on Tuesday where we enjoyed a very professional and entertaining performance of Beauty & the Beast! We would like to thank the theatre for their welcoming atmosphere – it was worth the extra journeying and we are looking forward to returning next year!

Children return to school on Tuesday 3rd January 2023.

Merry Christmas!

Mr Cooper



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

Awards

Acorns: Lucy – for always approaching her learning with great determination and for being able to now blend sounds!

Oaks: Dexter – for being kind, respectful and responsible and showing maturity.

Headteacher: Scarlet – For excellent effort and attitude to SATs practice.

Next Week's Events



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Monday	School Closed
Tuesday	Music Lessons with Alix Lillie. Please remember instruments. No Signing Club Begins 10/01/23
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
Thursday	No Choir Club Begins 12/01/23
Friday	

Future Diary Dates

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

January 2023

3rd: Children return to school

4th: Cricket sessions begin

9th: Swimming lesson begin

9th: Clubs begin

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

ENDEAVOUR FUN CLUB
FREE CHRISTMAS FEAST SESSIONS

The Endeavour Fun Club is hosting free Christmas feast sessions for those children who are eligible and have received their code letter. Each child is eligible for a free session per day (5 for the week). All food and snacks included.

Our bookings are now open for the following Feast sessions.

Mon 19th Dec 9-1 or 1-5

Tues 20th Dec 9-1 or 1-5

Wed 21st Dec 9-1 or 1-5

Thur 22nd Dec 9-1 or 1-5

Fri 23rd Dec 9-1 or 1-5

Qualifying children will have brought home their codes in a letter via schools.

Please head over to the Feast website for more details or to check if you qualify.

Please ring [07974974033](tel:07974974033) or [07795314255](tel:07795314255) to book.