



NEWSLETTER



06/01/2023

Dear Families and Friends,

Happy New Year & Welcome

Welcome back! I hope you have a restful and enjoyable Christmas period. This week has been a strange one for me not being in school and hearing the usual start of term excitement, however I am reassured that Mr Sellers says that this is very much present around school and children have returned full of energy and enthusiasm to learn.

I would like to formally welcome Mrs Moore to our Castleton family as our new school administrator. Mrs Moore has a wealth of experience in administration and working in education. She has hit the ground running, bringing new ideas to the role. Mrs Moore will be in the office every day except Wednesdays. I know you will all join me in welcoming her to the team.

Phoebe Update

Thank you so much for all the kind messages and offers of support following the premature birth of my daughter, Phoebe Olivia Cooper. This has meant so much to me and my wife and shows what a great community we have here.

I am pleased to say that Phoebe is doing well, filling her tummy (and her nappy!) and getting stronger every day. Unfortunately, however, Phoebe, my wife and I are still awaiting cot availability in York to return home, therefore it is a possibility that I will be away from school for some of next week. I will, however, continue to work remotely and will be in regular communication with Mr Sellers so that the school continues to move forward.

Swimming Lessons

Swimming lessons begin again on Monday afternoon. Please ensure your child comes to school wearing easy-to-change uniform (i.e. not tights or pinafore dresses), with their swimming kit and a towel in an easy-to-carry bag. We will support younger children with changing where necessary/appropriate, however we would encourage your support at home by practising independent dressing, to help make this process quicker and give us more time in the pool.

Year 6 Trip to Edinburgh

Thank you to those parents that promptly completed the form confirming their consent for their child to attend the Edinburgh trip in July. We hope to confirm the accommodation early next week and communicate how you can provide your deposit.

Outdoor Learning

Whilst we have swimming and cricket lessons, and during the colder weather, outdoor learning will be paused, so that we have plenty of time to deliver the rest of our curriculum. We hope to return to outdoor learning after February half-term.

Questionnaire

There is still time to complete our parental questionnaire which asks questions about a range of issues (some of which have been raised by other parents): <https://forms.gle/hhmnkz5QPbY9F4y17>

Key Stage 2 Trip – Rearrangement Details

Our rearranged Key Stage 2 trip to York will take place on Friday 20th January. Children will need to arrive at 7.50am, to allow time to travel to York. They will arrive back at approximately 3.45pm. An updated consent form has been sent out this week – please ensure that this is completed as children cannot attend the visit without consent. All children that usually receive a school lunch will be provided with a packed lunch, unless parents state otherwise on the form.

Key Stage 2 Teaching Assistant

Unfortunately, the shortlisted candidate for the Key Stage 2 teaching assistant role secured another position before our interview date. Whilst this is frustrating, we have re-advertised the role this week with a view to having a staff member in place in February. We will also look at alternative modes of support for our largest class.

Clubs

Clubs will start again next week, including Choir, Signing and our new club Website/Journalism Club. There is limited availability for spaces in the Website/Journalism Club if your child would like to attend. Please complete this form if you would like a space: <https://forms.gle/CEw1Q9m4FoPtQUAT7> Places will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis, so please note that completing the form does not guarantee a space (although all that have completed so far have a confirmed place).

Unfortunately, the mixed martial arts company that were going to provide some taster sessions on Fridays have been unable to find a trainer to send to our location. They will endeavour to provide this later in the year. Mr Sellers, however, has kindly offered to run an Art Club on Fridays for Years 2-6, starting from Friday 13th January. If you would like your child to attend this club, please complete the following form:

<https://forms.gle/3Q2vXWPNRrJNtZUcA>

We are hoping that a board games club will begin later in the term.

Have a great weekend,

Mr Cooper



Awards

Acorns: Thea – for being kind and always putting others before herself.

Oaks: Ella – for super effort in science and writing!

Next Week's Events

Monday	Swimming for all children – please bring swimming kit and towel in a bag
Tuesday	Music Lessons with Alix Lillie. Please remember instruments Signing Club
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 Website/Journalism Club
Thursday	Choir Club
Friday	Art Club – Y2-6



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Future Diary Dates

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

January

9th: Swimming lessons begin

9th: Clubs begin

20th: Key Stage 2 Trip to York

February

10th: End of half-term

24th: Year 3/4 Hockey Coaching

March

7th: Year 3/4 Hockey tournament

14th: Straws Cup Football competition (4-6pm)

24th: Training day

31st: End of term

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

