Castle Academy Newsletter

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Autumn Term 1 - Newsletter

October 2021

# Welcome back

A warm welcome back to new and existing families to Castle Academy.

In this issue of our newsletter you will find the following updates and news reports:

* A message from the Head of School
* An update from your class teachers
* Contact Us

# A message from the Head of School

I want to say how wonderful it has been to have the opportunity to welcome back our parents into school this term. It’s very important to us that we are able to have you in and share important information related to your children’s learning. The events we have held this term are:

* Meet the Teacher
* Whole school Reading Workshop
* Year 2 Phonics Workshop
* Macmillan Coffee Morning
* Inclusion Coffee Morning
* Year 6 Trail of Knowledge

Many thanks for your support at these events. If there are any events that you missed out on, please ask us for a parent events calendar. We kick off next term with the International Food Event which promises to be tasty!

As wonderful as it has been to have parents back in school, we must remember why restrictions were put in place in the first place. This week we have, like most other schools, had to endure a rising number of Covid cases within our school. As I said in my letter the other day, please continue to talk to your children about the importance of hygiene and keeping safe. Our aim as a school is that after such a long term we are all able to have a restful, healthy half term break.

We do have a few changes to our teaching staff from next term which you will already be aware of I hope. Mrs Hemming, our English Leader and Year 5 teacher, is departing for a new opportunity at another school which she starts after half term. We thank Mrs Hemming for all of her hard work at Castle Academy and wish her the very best in her new role. Mrs Hemming’s current class will be taught next term by Mr Hallis and Mrs Griffiths, who currently teach in Year 3. We are welcoming Miss Scanlan back onto our teaching team and she will be teaching Year 3 who she knows very well as she taught them last year!

Thank you to the staff, children and parents for a fantastic first term back at Castle Academy. I wish you all a wonderful half term break.

# Nursery



The Nursery children have settled well although there has been lots of coughs and colds so our absence rate has been high. The children have been working hard, making new friends and learning the rules and routines. In our maths activities we have been learning lots of number songs and counting in different contexts. We are learning about matching and different ways to sort a collection of objects, we are also learning new vocabulary; such as more, same amount, fewer. We’ve had a wonderful time in ‘messy play’ exploring different textures; such as wet cornflour and experimenting with colour mixing, we also got to practise our scissor skills cutting up damp spaghetti. We are learning to take care of books and are joining in with repeated phrases. One of our favourite books has been ‘Shark in the Park’ by Nick Sharratt. We acted the story out using the telescopes that we had made. This week we are thinking about our homes.

In Jigsaw we have been learning friendship rules and all about families, we’ve focused on feelings and ways to help ourselves feel better if we are feeling sad. Learning new vocabulary is a very important and we are introducing lots of words associated with interests and classroom activities.

Thank you to all of the parents who have been contributing towards the cost of nursery snack. It is much appreciated. I am so glad to hear such positive feedback from parents regarding the take home reading books. It is so exciting to hear how much the children have been enjoying the books at home. Please remember to send in a coat every day as it is getting cold outside now.

The Nursery Team.

# Reception



We are so very proud of how well the children have settled into school. They are becoming more independent in their self-help skills and have developed a very good attitude to learning.

This term we have focused on helping the children to be confident and happy at school and begin to develop friendships, listening skills and follow rules and routines.

We have been learning about each other and our families, worked hard at developing our understanding of number and enjoyed joining in with lots of different stories and poems.

The children have also started to develop their understanding of phonics. We have been learning about the sounds that the letters make and have been practising writing the letters in different ways.

Next term: We will be learning about light and dark, talking about celebrations from around the world, working together to complete activities and developing early reading skills.

How you can help: Continue to practise recognising numbers to 10, name writing, putting on and doing up their coats independently and sharing stories.

Reminders: Please send in a water bottle each day, PE is every Monday and please remove earrings.

The Reception Team.

# Year 1



The children have had an amazing start to Year 1. Over the term they have really enjoyed looking at different elements of a story and now have a good knowledge of authors, illustrators and using adjectives in their writing. In Maths they now have a good understanding of number including number bonds, using addition and subtraction and problem solving. The children have enjoyed learning about different curriculum subjects such as History, Science and Art.

A few polite reminders:

PE is on a Thursday. Children are to come to school in their PE kit and can stay in their PE kit for the remainder of the day.

Please can all uniform, coats, water bottles and lunchboxes be named.

Please continue to share stories with your children over the half term.

Thank you for your support this term.

The Year 1 Team.

# Year 2



It has been a very busy start to year 2!

We have been exploring our class text of Dear Earth and also looking at the story of Greta and the Giants. They have told us how important it is to look after our planet and the things we can do to help. We have been using adjectives to create descriptive sentences and we will be writing a letter towards the end of term.

We have started our phonics and Book Talk groups again and are working so hard to learn our new sounds and remember all of the sounds we have learnt so far. Our phonics screening is on November 22nd and we are working hard to make sure all of the children are ready for this.

In maths, we have been using lots of different resources to help us with place value such as cubes, dice, bead strings and number lines. We have been looking at tens and ones and will soon be moving on to addition.

Year 2 have been having lots of fun in geography learning a song to remember the continents of the world and also exploring the U.K. using an atlas. In science, we have been looking at microhabitats and searched through our eco-garden to see if we could find any mini-beasts. We found some spiders, a woodlouse and lots of ants! In art, we have been creating the work of Quentin Blake and have used watercolours to make George's Marvellous Medicines cauldron. We experimented with lots of different colours and blew the paint to see what happened. In R.E., we have been looking at Islam and talking about how what a leader does.

It has been a super start to year 2 and we know it will continue! Please remember to read with your child and fill out their reading record and look out for the school events coming up such as the International Food Day on November 4th.

The Year 2 Team.

# Year 3



Year 3 have made a super return to school and are really enjoying their transition into Key Stage 2.

In English, we have been exploring the book, The Stone Age Boy by Satoshi Kitamura. We are using prepositions and expanded noun phrases to write a similar story.

In Maths, we have been investigating place value- we have enjoyed using different resources to solve mathematical problems.

In History, we are enjoying learning about prehistoric Britain and are really taking pleasure in developing our deductive skills.

In Science, we have been learning all about Rocks, and are continuing to develop our knowledge of how rocks are made.

In Art, we have been focusing on art on walls and had lots of fun learning about pictographs.

We have been really lucky to have visits from the Saints Foundation every Tuesday morning to work with us to develop positive character traits through exciting classroom and practical activities.

The Year 3 Team.

# Year 4



Year 4 have made a fantastic start to the year! In English, we have been studying Fox by Margaret Wild and have been learning to write our own fables with a moral. The children have done a fabulous job and we will be sending them home soon for you to see all of their hard work. In Maths, we have spent this term working hard on our understanding of place value and have been learning efficient methods that we can use for addition and subtraction.

In History, we have been learning about the Ancient Greeks exploring how we can use artefacts and other sources of information to learn about the past. We discovered a range of information from looking at how democracy began in Athens to learning about the achievements of Alexander the Great.

In RE, we have been learning about Hinduism delving into some of the key beliefs and practises.

In Computing, we have been recording and tracking weather to create our own weather forecasts.

We have also been doing some DT this term and in turn the children have produced their own amazing memory boxes.

The children deserve a well earned rest after all this hard work! We look forward to another fantastic term together after the half term break.

                                                                               The Year 4 Team.

# Year 5



What an amazing half term this has been! It has been wonderful to welcome the children back to school and welcome Mr Lewis to Castle Academy too!

These past few weeks have seen the children adapt well to the expectations that Upper Key Stage 2 can bring as well as knowing they are setting an excellent example to the younger children in the school.

There have been so many wonderful moments this term and we have enjoyed learning lots of new things together. We have investigated the Vikings and Anglo-Saxons in our History lessons and this has connected with our English, where we have looked at the historic saga, Beowulf. We have looked at Old English, used drama, created and wrote our own sagas in the style of this ancient text! The children have thoroughly enjoyed it which has been excellent. In Maths, we have been investigating number and place value through all four functions. The children have also enjoyed their Maths Talk lessons where we set them visual challenges – an excellent activity! Please ask them about it. Our Science has seen us investigate properties of materials; discussing the structure of the perfect sandcastle, painting using natural resources, investigating the absorbency of kitchen roll to name a few! Our Art has seen us start to understand homes and housing around us and the world, with our Music focussing upon the classic Bon Jovi song, Livin’ on a Prayer’. We have also used Memory Retrieval to help us understand key vocabulary linked to our History topic of Invaders!

A big ‘Thank you’ for all your support this term and can we please continue to support reading at home and ensure Reading Records are signed and handed in on Thursdays. It is key that the children build on the successes that they have had so far this term.

Have a wonderful half term!

The Year 5 Team.

# Year 6



Year 6 have made a fantastic start to the new academic year! They have shown a great maturity and attitude to learning – we couldn’t have asked for a better start.

This half term, in History we have been learning about World War Two. This has linked to our class reader, in English ‘Friend or Foe’ and we have enjoyed unpicking the writing devices used by Morpurgo to inspire our own evacuation story. The children have worked incredibly hard on this to make sure that it is full of vivid description, World War 2 vocabulary as well as using punctuation for effect.

In Maths, we have recapped the four operations and identified the most efficient methods to help us calculate the answer. In more recent weeks, Year 6 have persevered with division and multiplication!

In RE we have been learning about Humanists as well as having very insightful class discussions about what we value and what we believe would make the world a more peaceful place.

The children have enjoyed Art, where they created their own Henry Moore inspired piece, the children practised the technique of line drawing and the wax resist method to create their own picture of an underground shelter from World War Two.

In Computing, we have examined the different types of websites and the purposes they serve, which enabled the children to come up with their own website idea. The children are looking forward to designing their own website next term.

As always, it has been a very busy half term but the children have worked very hard and we wish them a very restful and safe half term. We’d also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support at home.

Happy half term from the Year 6 Team! 😊

The Year 6 Team.



Our lost property box is located outside the school office. Please do check here if you believe that your child is missing any items.



Thank you to all those that attended our Macmillan coffee morning. We raised a fantastic £207.00.



The school photographer was due to be in school on Tuesday 2nd November 2021 to take individual and sibling photographs of the children. This date has now been changed to and the school photographer will be in on Monday 29th November 2021.



School Reminders

We would like to remind you that if somebody else is collecting your child, they MUST be aged 18 or over.

School Uniform

Please ensure that your child/ren come to school in the correct uniform at all times. Children MUST wear black shoes. Uniform is available to purchase from the school office on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Labelling School Uniform

Please ensure children's clothing is clearly labelled to ensure all property is sent home with the correct child. This will also help when returning clothing, should it find its way to lost property.

Lost Property

We currently have a lot of items in our lost property box, which is located outside the school office. Please do check if any of these items belong to your child.

Aspens

If you book your child/ren lunches via Aspens, then please remember to book your child/ren's meals online for the new term.

Water Bottles

Please ensure that your child/ren bring a water bottle into school with them each day. This should be clearly labelled to ensure that it can be returned, should it be mislaid.

School Driveway

We are concerned about the safety of pupils coming in and out of school on St Georges Street. Parents/carers are reminded that you must keep the yellow Zig Zag lines, on the road by the entrance to the school, clear at all times.

We have also noticed a high number of parents and children still using the carpark drive as a walkway during drop-off and pick-up every day. We must remind you that cars regularly use this road and it is so important to keep yourselves and your children safe whilst on the school ground.

Please keep to the school walkways at all times to ensure the safety of all individuals on site.

We would also like to remind parents/carers that you must not park in the Chiropractor car park when you are dropping off or picking up from school.

In School Childcare

Here at Castle we have both a before and after school club that children can attend. Further information can be found at the school office.  Breakfast and after school club are provided by Castle Academy.

Dates for the Diary

Half Term

Friday 22nd October 2021 - Break for Half-Term

Monday 1st November 2021 - Teacher Training Day

Tuesday 2nd November 2021 - Pupils return to school

# Contact Us

For further information or enquiries, please contact us via the information below.

Castle Academy

St. Georges Street

Northampton, NN1 2TR

01604 638 679

Piota Schools App

[enquiries@castle.emat.uk](mailto:enquiries@castle.emat.uk)