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Tuesday, 18th July 2023

Dear Families,

That's it. We're at the end of another Team Castleway year. This has been my second full academic year as Castleway's Headteacher and I couldn't be prouder of our school community. We're in a position now where Castleway is fast becoming the school of choice for our community, our Reception Class numbers for September are proof if anyone needed it! Why wouldn't you choose Castleway? We have the best children, incredible families, an amazing staff team, a fabulous refurbished building and I believe the Headteacher is alright too! Thank you for everything you do to support us, it really does make a difference. Please remember that we're welcoming all children (Nursery & Primary) back to Castleway on Tuesday, 5th September. Please note that Monday 4th September is a staff training day.

End of the year or not, here's your update as usual, with all of the regular celebrations and news, just on Tuesday instead. As you'd expect, there's a lot about our departing Year Six children in today's update. Here we go...

Goodbye and Good Luck Year Six

We said an emotional farewell to our wonderful Year 6 children this morning as we welcomed children and families to their Leavers' Assembly. Memories were shared, songs were sung and Kayden even showcased his guitar playing skills. Our children have been phenomenal and we're incredibly proud that they'll be taking a little piece of Castleway with them as they move on to the next part of their learning adventure.



Fond Farewell... well, not really!

Today we said a very fond farewell to Mrs. McGee as she leaves us to take up a teaching position at another school. Mrs. McGee returned to Castleway shortly after I arrived and she's made herself an invaluable member of the team (again) since then. We wish you all the very best in your new role, Mrs. McGee. Thank you for everything. As I said in our staffing update letter, I'm sure Mrs. McGee will be back. Well, I'm most certainly hoping she will!

We're also saying a huge thank you but not goodbye to Dr. Helen Bibby. Helen has been at the heart of our Nursery School community for many years and has incredible relationships with our families. She's been at the forefront of working with families to ensure that the support their children need is in place ready for the next phase of their learning. Having know Helen since I started at Castleway in April 2021, I'm thrilled to say that her stepping down from her role as Nursery School SENDCo doesn't mean we lose her expertise and passion for inclusion. Thanks for everything, Helen. Here's to the next chapter!

Headteacher: Mr. S. Mycroft

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Pupil of the Year 2023

I introduced the 'Pupil of the Year' award when I started at Castleway as a way of acknowledging that individual who really is everything you'd want in a member of Team Castleway. The award was won by Emma Burnett in 2021, she then presented it to Christopher Jones last year and this year it's the turn of Charlie Smith to receive the award. Charlie the hearts and minds of our staff and children when he joined us and he's gone on to grow in confidence ever since. We're so proud of Charlie and I know that he'll continue to do brilliant things in High School. Charlie will be back in 2024 to present the award to the next recipient!



'Look for the Rainbow Award' 2023

We introduced a brand-new award this year for our Year Six children with a focus on 'looking for the rainbow in every storm'. This award is aimed to recognise positivity and perseverance and there was only one choice for us... Jasmine Thomson! Jasmine is positivity personified and embodies our school values brilliantly. We will miss Jasmine's positivity greatly but the best thing is that now she's the recipient of this award, she'll need to come back to present it to the next winner! Well done Jasmine, we'll see you next year!



Castleway Captains 2023/24

This morning, Toby and Jess had the job of announcing their replacements as Castleway Captains. Given that our school is growing by the day, we've made the decision to introduce the role of Vice Captains too!

After a democratic vote, I'm delighted to announce that **Annie McCarthy** and **Joseph Sandalls** are our new **Captains** and **Teegan Freeman** and **Joshua Smith** are Castleway's first ever **Vice Captains!** Our Captains and Vice Captains will have very important roles to play in the coming academic year.

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Ice Cream Treat for Year Six

As is now tradition at Castleway, we were visited by our very own ice cream van last week to celebrate the end of our wonderful Year 6 children's time at Castleway. Of course, the staff had a little treat too!



End of Year Reports to Families

Hopefully you've all now received your end of year reports from your child's class teacher. I read each and every one of these reports and I loved adding my own personal comment to them. I hope you all enjoyed reading them as much as our team enjoyed writing them.

If you haven't already, please share your feedback by [clicking here](#) or scanning the QR code on the image.

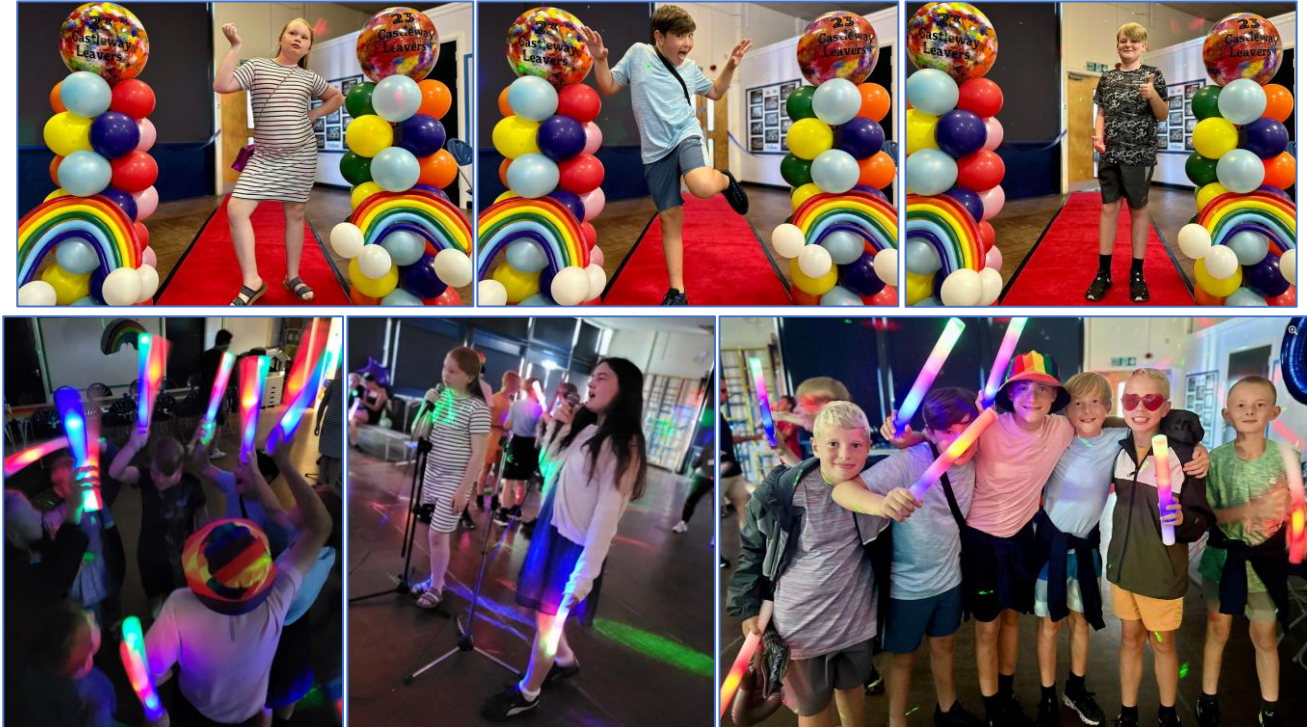
I'll ensure that all comments are shared with our staff. Thank you!

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Year Six Leavers' Disco

As we know only too well, there ain't no part like a Castleway Party! Year Six had a great this last night celebrating the end of their Castleway journey. There were some great fashion choices and interesting dance moves... the children looked good too! Thanks, as always, to our amazing team who make sure that our children have these opportunities to make memories! Of course, there was a red-carpet entrance for Castleway's Year Six VIPs...



Special Visitor for Year Six

Year Six had a wonderful surprise last week when Mr. Bryan came back to visit them. It was lovely to welcome the one and only Mr. Bryan back to Castleway and our Year Six wasted no time in filling him in on everything he's missed!



Year Three's Roman Adventure

Year Three were immersed in all things Roman last week on their trip to Chester! As you'd expect, they were impeccable ambassadors for our school and showcased their recent learning brilliantly! A great day was had and it was lovely that Mr. Smith was able to attend too ahead of taking over as Year 4 teacher in September.



Year Six Sleepover

Last weekend was the third annual 'Big Year Six Sleepover'. It's safe to say that our current Year Six's now have the title of having the least amount of sleep at this event! They had a great time with their friends and made memories that will last a life time. That's what Castleway is all about. Huge thanks to Miss McDonough and Mr. Smith for giving up their Friday night to spend it with me and our very energetic Year Six children!



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Year Two Residential

I remember back at the start of the academic year when Miss Dalby announced her plans to take Year 2 on a residential visit and the reaction from our families was mixed to say the very least! I'm thrilled that our children had the opportunity to let their skills shine during an action packed two days away from school. One of our Year 2 adventurers even woke up with his friends on his 7th birthday. After the success of this year's adventures, our Year 1 children were delighted to hear that we plan to do it all again next year when they're in Year 2! Huge thanks to Miss Dalby and Miss McDonough for giving up their time so freely to allow our children to make these memories.

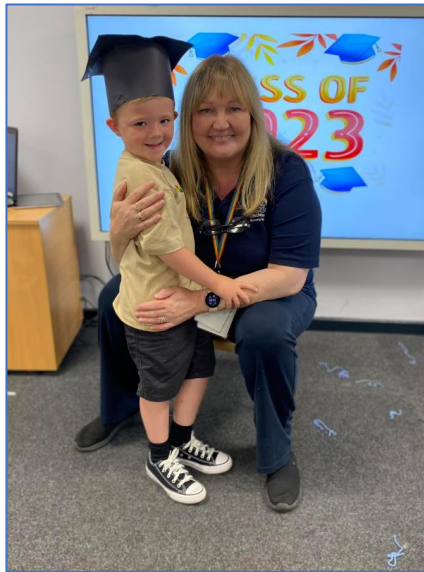
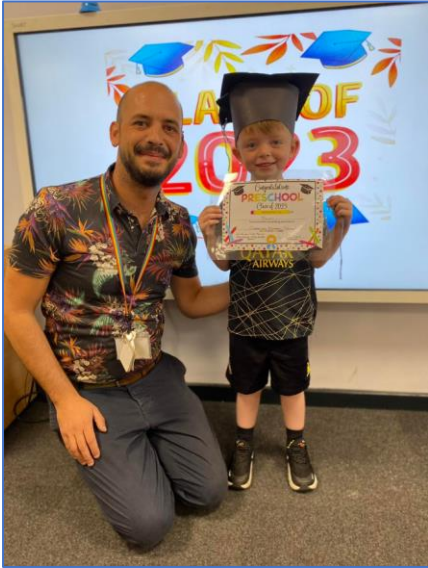


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Nursery are ready for Reception!

It's not just our Year 6 children who will be spending the summer break getting ready for the next chapter of their education, our Nursery children will be too! We have loved our first year of having our Nursery School on our site and although our staff are sad to see the children leave their class, most of them will only be next door in our Reception Class. For those few who are leaving us to join other schools, they're very lucky to have you!



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Come Dine with Us

As you'll all know by now, I'm incredibly passionate about making sure our families feel as welcome in our school as our children do. We hosted some very special 'Come Dine with Us' events where classes got to meet their child's next teacher. Thanks, as always, to our wonderful kitchen team for the many delicious meals that we've been able to share with our families this year.



Sports Day 2023

It's hard to believe it was only last week but we loved our sporty day at Castleway. Well, to be fair, most days are sporty here but it was extra sporty last week! We loved being able to welcome families in to our Nursery event (sorry that the rain had other plans for the afternoon) and our Primary afternoon was really well attended too. The traditional staff and family races were as popular as ever... even leading to a conversation about the VAR coming out to confirm the winners! You can watch the family races and the staff race on our FB page or by clicking the stills from the videos below.

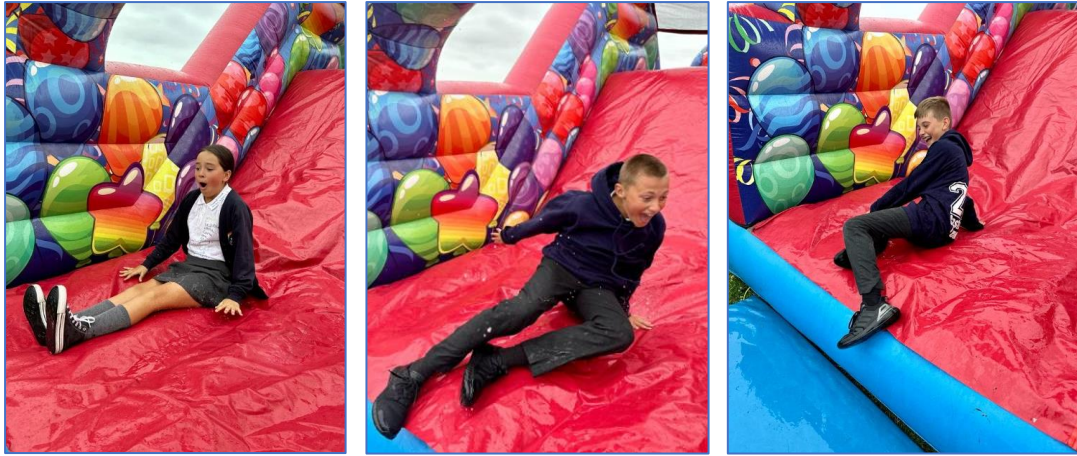


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Surprise Surprise!

Unbeknown to me, our wonderful staff team had a huge inflatable surprise to celebrate my birthday today. We've all had the best time on the inflatable today. While it might've been wetter than we'd have liked and we're all now a little damp and grassy, it really was an amazing way to celebrate not only my 40th birthday but also the end of an amazing Castleway year! There will be lots more photos added to our socials later on. I'm sorry the weather meant that you couldn't all be with us but please be assured, we had fun anyway!



A message from me...

There is never a moment where I don't feel lucky to be Castleway's Headteacher but today really has been something else. I absolutely love Castleway and I will be forever grateful for how each and every member of our community has accepted me for exactly who I am with their arms wide open. The surprise this morning meant the absolute world and I have been well and truly spoilt rotten. Castleway is a place like no other and I am incredibly proud to be a small part of this wonderful community. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for not only making my 40th birthday so memorable but also for making me feel so lucky to be part of this incredible community each and every day!



That's it. We're done! The academic year 2022/23 has been one like no other. Huge thank you to each and everyone of you for everything that you do for this community. I wish our Year 6 children all of the luck in the world. I know that they'll go forth to do wonderful things. Of course they will, they're part of Team Castleway. To those of you who are back in September, I can't wait to reopen the doors to you all on Tuesday 5th September at the usual times with Breakfast Club open as normal.

Have fun!

Kind regards,

Mr. S. Mycroft
Headteacher

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