



We are Castleway.

Be kind. Be confident. Be your best.



Thursday, 21st December 2023

Dear Families,

Can you believe this is our last update for 2023? This year really has flown and whether you think of our academic year so far or the calendar year as a whole, it really has been a special one! There is so much to celebrate at Castleway and there is even more to come. Here's your last update, a lesser spotted Thursday Update in fact, of 2023...

Nativity 2023 – What a show!

The jewel in the Christmas crown was our Nativity performance on Monday! Our wonderful Reception and Year 1 classes performed their Nativity with confidence and passion. They made precious memories for us all. A big thank you to all of our families who were able to join us for making the Nativity performances even more special!



D.I.S.C.O – That's the CastleWay!

Our children loved having the chance to let their hair down at the Winter Discos this week. There were some rather fabulous shapes being thrown... and the children weren't too bad either! As always, thanks to our staff for ensuring these enrichment events happen for our children with extra special thanks for those events that are this close to finishing for Christmas.



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Christmas Dinner – What a feast!

Once again, our wonderful kitchen team didn't disappoint with our Christmas lunch yesterday. Our children gathered together and enjoyed their delicious festive feast and we even had a special visitor too! Huge thanks to our amazing kitchen team once again. They are absolute super stars!



Walking in a Early Years Wonderland...

Our youngest children really have had a fabulously festive week. From amazing us all with their singing around the Christmas tree to meeting Santa and enjoying their Christmas feast to creating wintery pieces of art! We are so proud of our Early Years provision at Castleway.



Castleway's Christmas Community Champions – 2023

This year we asked you to nominate your community champions to allow us to celebrate those in our locality who always go above and beyond. When we say we are a community school, we really mean it and We were thrilled with the response to our request. Yesterday, Santa and I went out and about to say thank you to those special members of our community. It's been amazing to see the response to these worthy winners on social media overnight, well done to all!

Vera Corlett - Castleway's Christmas Community Champion 2023

I wasn't surprised to see Vera in amongst our nominees. She's a real community hero and I'm thrilled we got to celebrate her. Reasons for nominating Vera included:

- 'Vera is the heart and soul of The Addy.'
- 'We are so lucky to have Vera.'
- 'I don't know her personally but see all the wonderful things she organises.'



Lyndsey McDonough - Castleway's Christmas Community Champion 2023

Another name I wasn't surprised to see nominated was our very own Miss McDonough. I see first hand how much thought, energy and time she puts in to everything that she does for our families. She doesn't do it for praise, for personal gain or thanks, she does everything she does because she genuinely wants to help our community. Reasons for nominating Miss McDonough included:

- She really does do a lot for our school and is always there when needed. It could be to ask help with food, clothing or even just someone to talk to. She really doesn't see how much of a big part she is for the school and how loved she is.
- Miss McDonough does loads to help the school. Can always rely on her if you need someone to confide in. Such a kind person and my children love her.
- Goes out of her way to help everyone, not just people in Castleway. Such an amazing woman, forever thankful for her.
- Lyndsey loves our school but she loves our community just as much. She'll do anything to help someone in need.



Jodie Davies & Mark Costigan - Castleway's Christmas Community Champions 2023

This was our only joint nomination although all three received separate nominations. The joint nomination spoke in detail about why these amazing individuals are Community Champions and not just at Christmas.

- These people are inspirational in their voluntary work: they run Rakers Football Club in Leasowe. They allow children regardless of ability, disability, sex etc to participate in football. They also progress older players and parents in becoming managers of football teams and support in furthering sport careers.
- They provide sport and equality for all and support kids and parents in achieving goals and qualifications.
- They have made excellent relationships with professional youth academies to enable kids to have both training and career path way opportunities.
- Every year they apply for funded kids toys to distribute to those families in the area who financially struggle. Then they pay for petrol themselves and dress up to deliver toys around the area. They do numerous fundraising events to support the community for anyone in need, this year arranging fundraising football event to support getting a sick young mum home from Turkey.
- They also provide activities to support the youth on the estate and to help minimise anti-social behaviour, on several occasions working with the police. These people work voluntary and tirelessly for their community.
- Although they won't want it, they truly deserve recognition.



Joey Davies - Castleway's Christmas Community Champion 2023

The one and only Mr. Davies received multiple nominations and the nice thing is that although our school was mentioned, his passion for our community was the real thing to celebrate. Joey was mentioned in our joint nomination alongside Jodie and Mark but he also got additional special shout outs. Reasons for Joey's nomination included:

- Always the first to help kids in need.
- Supports kids through their football journey. In fact, their journey mightn't even happen without him!
- Just amazing in general. Amazing.
- Heart of solid gold. It's definitely a solid blue heart but it's 100% solid gold too.



Traci Allen - Castleway's Christmas Community Champion 2023

Traci's nomination was a touching one. We are very grateful for people like Traci in our lives. Reasons for Traci's nomination included:

- Traci has lived in Leasowe all of her life. When there is a collection to be done or support needed most people go to her.
- For both the Queen's Jubilee and the Coronation of our new King, she organised and raised money for events. She really worked tirelessly to organise amazing street parties for the children and adults.
- Traci is genuinely, as well as being a devoted mother and grandmother, an absolute pillar of the Leasowe estate.



It's back for 2024 – Dress to Express Day – Save the Date!

As you know, being 'your best' is part and parcel of what we do at Castleway and 'Dress to Express Day' has become a big part of our school calendar so it won't surprise you that it's back for 2024. As part of our celebrations for Children's Mental Health Week, we'll be asking children to showcase who they are by 'dressing to express'. Start planning those outfits, we can't wait to see you all shine!



Hot Chocolate with the Head... Elf!

Yesterday's Hot Chocolate with the Head became #HotChocolateWithTheHeadElf when Santa popped in to join me in congratulating all of this term's Headteacher Award winners. We are always proud of our children but I do love celebrating our children's individual achievements.



Castleway's Secret Santa

So, you may have heard about some of Team Castleway sneaking around the estate last night leaving some of our families a little #SecretSanta gift. As always for Castleway, it's about being kind so last night was about nothing more than spreading a little Christmas cheer... Castleway style! We do have some very tired #CastleElves this morning though.



This genuinely has been festive period like no other at Castleway. Each and every member of our staff has gone over and above to ensure that our children have the best possible time. Children have made memories, met Santa and had more fun than you can shake a selection box at! The best thing is, our school really has been shining at the heart of our community with so many events and activities that extend beyond our school walls.

Castleway is a magical place and I am thrilled that more and more people are finding out what makes us special.

Have an absolutely amazing Christmas, however you choose to spend it, and we'll see you all safe and well in January.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Mycroft'.

Mr. Stuart Mycroft
Headteacher

P.S. If you're feeling brave enough, our initial list of dates for Spring Term are available to read on the next page. If you need a rest after the absolute gem that has been this term before reading, I wouldn't blame you at all! Spring term is going to be another one to remember for all at Castleway! You'll have to let me know if you've read on or not...



Dates for your Diary – 2024 edition!

Please make a note of these dates for just some of the events we have planned. As always, we do our best to ensure you're all informed in advance and have plenty of notice so that's why there's quite the list below! Please be aware that, although we'll try our absolute best not to, these dates may be subject to change. **Bookings via School Spider will open closer to the time for some of the later events.**



When?	What?	Who?
08/01/24	Back to School – Happy New Year	All children and staff
09/01/24	First #CastleTots session of 2024 – Every Tuesday!	Community Parent & Toddler Group
11/01/24	Reading Café for Years 3 & 4 – Every Thursday in Spring Term!	Families of Years 3 & 4 Children
12/01/24	Whole School Trip to Floral Pavilion *Payments via School Spider Please*	Primary School Children
17/01/24	Perform4Schools Drama Workshops – Free!	Primary School Children
24/01/24	Come Dine with Year 3 – Bookings open now	Families of Year 3 Children
31/01/24	Come Dine with Year 4 – Bookings open now	Families of Year 4 Children
04/02/24	Years 4 & 5 Residential Visit	Years 4 & 5 children
05/02/24	Start of Children's Mental Health Week	Primary & Nursery School Children
07/02/24	Come Dine with Year 5 – Bookings open now	Families of Year 5 Children
09/02/24	Dress to Express Day – Non-Uniform Day	All children and staff
14/02/24	Come Dine with Year 6 – Bookings open now	Families of Year 6 Children
15/02/24	Cool to be Kind – EYFS Theme Day	Reception & Nursery School Children
15/02/24	Valentine's Disco	Primary & Nursery School Children
06/03/24	Mothers and Significant Others Morning Brunch – 10:30am	Nursery School Families *Bookings via School Spider*
07/03/24	World Book Day *Costume Swap Shop to be arranged*	Primary & Nursery School Children
07/03/24	Brew, book and bagel – Family Coffee Morning	Primary School Families
08/03/24	Mothers and Significant Others Afternoon Tea – 2:30pm	Primary School Families *Bookings via School Spider*
11/03/24	Mothers and Significant Others Afternoon Tea – 2:30pm	Primary & Nursery School Families *Bookings via School Spider*
18/03/24	Reception Curriculum Celebration Afternoon – 2:30pm	Families of Reception Class Children
19/03/24	Year 6 Curriculum Celebration Afternoon – 2:30pm	Families of Year 6 Class Children
20/03/24	EYFS Easter Fun Day – Non-Uniform	Nursery & Reception Children
21/03/24	World Down Syndrome Day – Full Uniform & Odd Socks	All children and staff
22/03/24	Year 5 Curriculum Celebration Afternoon – 2:30pm	Families of Year 5 Class Children
25/03/24	Year 4 Curriculum Celebration Afternoon – 2:30pm	Families of Year 4 Class Children
26/03/24	Year 3 Curriculum Celebration Afternoon – 2:30pm	Families of Year 3 Class Children
27/03/24	Year 2 Curriculum Celebration Afternoon – 2:30pm	Families of Year 2 Class Children
28/03/24	Easter Bonnet Parade – Family Assembly – 9:30am	Families of Primary School Children
28/03/24	Year 1 Curriculum Celebration Afternoon – 2:30pm	Families of Year 1 Class Children
23/05/24	Year 6 Residential Visit to Gulliver's World	Year 6 children

