



We are Castleway.

Be kind. Be confident. Be your best.



Thursday, 28th March 2024

Dear Families,

It's the end of another amazing half term at Castleway. We have had a lovely week filled with Easter treats and sports. Huge thanks to our wonderful team for everything that they do each and every day.

Welcome to Castleway!

We have welcomed four new children to the Castleway family this week. They've all made a fantastic start to their time at Castleway and are already shining in doing things 'TheCastleWay'. We absolutely love how more and more families are choosing Castleway for their children.



Easter Bonnet Parade and Assembly

I loved seeing our hall so full with smiling family members this morning! Our children (with a little help from their adults at home) made some wonderful Easter bonnets and loved having the chance to show them off. Thank you to all who booked through School Spider and thanks for the patience of those of you who didn't. We have a limited capacity in our hall and as this was a whole school event, we couldn't just have a blanket 'come along' invitation. We would strongly encourage all families to book in advance for whole school events like this to avoid disappointment.



Headteacher: Mr. S. Mycroft

Castleway Primary School & Castleway Nursery School, Castleway North, Moreton, Wirral, CH46 1RN

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Cricket – Chance to Shine

Some of our classes had the chance to take part in a special ‘Chance to Shine’ cricket taster day. We were blown away by the cricket skills showcased by our children and are looking forward to further opportunities like this in the future.



Hot Chocolate with the Head

I always look forward to ‘Hot Chocolate with the Head’ as it gives me chance to spend time with the recipients of my ‘Headteacher’s Award’. This time was extra special as we were joined by the winners of the ‘Presentation Challenge’ from last term. Hot chocolate, cream, treats and fabulous children!



Goodbye and Good Luck, Elaine!

It’s the end of half term but also the end of an era in our kitchen as the wonderful Elaine leaves us today to start a new adventure at another school.

Elaine has been at Castleway for four and a half years and was amazing when she stepped up to take over the kitchen at the Nursery School’s previous site before the big move.

We’re very grateful for all Elaine has done for us and wish her all the very best in the future!





Straight to the Head?

I hope you all know me well enough by now to know that having positive relationships with our families is a huge priority of mine. I love having the chance to chat to you all and love our laughter even more.

When you do have something more serious to discuss, it is not always appropriate to come straight to me. We have worked hard over the last three years to build capacity in our team and this now means that things don't have to come straight to me. If you bring a concern straight to me without utilising the other members of team, you are removing the 'next step' and also you are missing out of the support,

guidance and expertise of the other members of our team. In general, we'd expect a chain similar to this:

- Class Teacher – either via phone, at the classroom door or a mutual appointment
- Assistant Headteacher – Mrs. Morris or Mrs. McCarthy
- Headteacher – Mr. Mycroft

As Castleway continues to grow and thrive, it is not possible for me to personally respond to and deal with everything. Please be assured that this is in no way me saying that I don't want to hear comments or concerns, it's just me asking you to bear in mind that we have a wider team who can usually help resolve any concerns before they need to reach me. We have a fabulous group of people working in our school, let's utilise them!

Please also remember that Miss McDonough is a great resource with lots of links to support agencies within the community. There's a reason she's our Community Advocate!

Scooter Stars

Earlier this week, Years 1 & 2 enjoyed their Scooter Stars training session. It was great to see some of our youngest children learn some safety tips, including hazard navigation, to help them to be more active on their way to school.



Big Easter Egg Hunt

We've had a really 'egg-citing' week as we've been surprising our classes with their very own Easter Egg Hunts each day. Children haven't known in advance who is going to be selected so there's been an air of anticipation all week. How fun!



Curriculum Celebration Afternoons

We've loved inviting our families in to share children's learning from this term. We are so proud that our families form a huge part of our school and not just for special events and assemblies. You're in regularly to see your children's learning and, in the event of our Curriculum Celebration Afternoons, we even put you to the test too!



Eco Art Exhibition

In Eco club, the children have been making fish from plastic bottles and they are going to be on display at Birkenhead Visitors Centre! Parents are invited to go along and join in making some jellyfish and see the final product over the holidays! We hope you are able to go and see our children's artwork on display.

A poster for the 'Mutant Fish Project' exhibition. The background is a blue sky with white clouds over a body of water. In the foreground, a large fish is shown swimming, but its body is partially made of clear plastic bottles. The text on the poster reads: 'Mutant Fish Project', 'A Warning from the Children of Wirral', 'Birkenhead Park, Visitors Centre', 'Exhibition created by the school children of Wirral, warning about the dangers of plastics in our oceans.', 'Come and see the exhibition during April and add to the shoal at our Family Drop In event making jellyfish on Thursday 4th April 10am - 1pm'. There is a logo in the bottom right corner that says 'COOL WIRRAL CLIMATE ACTION'.



Social Media – Plea to Parents & Helpful Tips

We have an increasing number of parents raising concerns about children’s inappropriate use of mobile phones and other forms of social media messaging and usage. In addition, we are receiving an increasing number of concerns from parents around the posts they are reading from other adults. This is something that is incredibly difficult for school to manage.

When used correctly social media has many benefits. AS you know, we use social media to frequently celebrate the achievements of our children and this is something that our community really enjoy and engage well with. When used incorrectly social media can cause upset and anxiety for adults and for children. Research says that children (and adults) can be affected in many ways – they feel unhappy, vulnerable, left out, bullied, can’t sleep and lose confidence.

This is clearly something that we all want to protect our children (and each other) from. Incorrect or inappropriate use is very often texting on mobile phones to individuals through group chats. We talk often about this in school but it remains the responsibility of ALL parents to manage and monitor their child’s usage of mobile phones and wider internet usage.

Many sites have age restrictions; eg facebook, you tube, Instagram, snap chat, musical.ly - this is to prohibit and ultimately safeguard primary school children from having their own authorised use. Often peer pressure persuades children that they must have a mobile phone ‘because everyone else has’ OR to join a social network group. This pressure can equally persuade parents to buy children a mobile phone for their child or children OR to overlook age restrictions on sites.

As parents it is entirely appropriate to say ‘no’. If your child does have a phone (or iPad or tablet or laptop) some simple but important safeguarding messages are:

- Set guidelines for when your child has use of their phone or device and what they can use it for.
- Check usage and messages for appropriateness.
- Restrict access to certain sites and apps. If they’re there and causing an issue, block and delete.
- Age restrictions on sites are there to protect and safeguard children, check and if in doubt say no!
- Keep phones downstairs and not in bedrooms.
- Remove the privilege of a phone or device if it is used inappropriately.
- Remind children (and adults) that digital media leaves a digital footprint; this means that messages and images are stored and are traceable. Think what you say and post.
- Use sensibly and safely – look after each other and yourself.

CastleTots – Special Theme Sessions

Our ‘CastleTots’ sessions run every Tuesday during term-time and we’re thrilled with how well they’re being receive by our community. Mrs. Morris and the team have put together a list of special theme days too. Please see the flyer on the next page to see what’s happening when!



CASTLETOTS

Parent & Toddler sessions at Castleway

Our sessions run each Tuesday in term time.

Look at our special themed sessions below.

We hope you can join us!

EASTER

Tuesday 26th March

GROWING

Tuesday 16th April

Seaside

Tuesday 21st May



Rainbow

Tuesday 11th June

SPACE

Tuesday 16th July

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Dates for your Diary

Don't worry, there's nothing to add to your calendar just yet! We'll share a full list of all Summer Term events when we return to school on Monday, 15th April. Thank you, as always, for your continued support with all events at Castleway.





Time Flies...

During the holiday, 12th April 2024 will mark my third year as Headteacher at Castleway. Can you believe it! From our incredible building project to our Nursery School joining us on this site. From meeting the 84 children on roll at Castleway when I started to the thriving community we are now, there is so much to be proud of. We are in no way perfect and we are in no way the 'finished article' but I am so proud to be the Headteacher of school that constantly reflects on what we do, constantly thinks of new and exciting ways to bring learning to life and constantly strives to put our children at the heart of all that we do.

I am incredibly thankful to all of our families who are 'on the same page' as us and understand why we do what we do. Ultimately, we are here for our children but we will continue to do everything we can to support our families and we appreciate the fact that you do all that you can to support us too.

We are doing amazing things. We are Castleway.

Have the best Easter break and we're already looking forward to seeing you all on Monday, 15th April.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Mycroft", is written over a light blue grid background.

Mr. S. Mycroft
Headteacher

