



We are Castleway.

Be kind. Be confident. Be your best.



Friday, 26th April 2024

Dear Families,

It's the end of another wonderfully busy Castleway week! As always, there's much to share and celebrate. We're ready and raring to go with another jam-packed Friday Update...

Earth Day

We started this week by celebrating Earth Day. Across the week, all children have been decorating their own pebble that will be used in our school garden. We have some incredibly talented artists who are also passionate about our environment! We'll let you know when these amazing pieces of rock art are ready to be viewed.



Reception Class – Spider Experts!

On the driest day we've had for a long time, our F2 children decided to play stuck in the mud this week. They have been getting up close with spiders and ants as well as spotting butterflies. Some children have also been learning how to safely use hammers and nails to make a weaving board to use on their next visit.



Headteacher: Mr. S. Mycroft

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#LetGirlsPlay

We were proud to take part in Tranemere Rovers' 'Let Girls Play' tournament earlier this week. It's safe to say that our team made sure 'TheCastleWay' shone through their teamwork, attitudes and skill. Well done and thank you to our fabulous team!



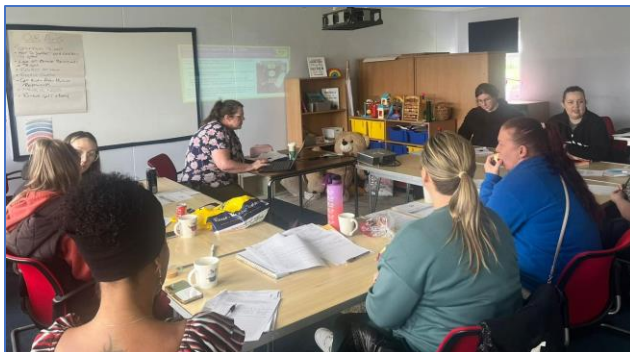
Finally on the field!

Mr. Davies was very popular earlier this week as the field gate swung open for the first time this year! Our unusually wet year has meant our children haven't been able to use our extensive grounds but, it's safe to say, KS2 made up for it! We're looking forward to all children being able to enjoy our grounds as the weather continues to improve.



Counselling Course Level Two

Our Level Two Counselling Course with [Three Dimensional Training Limited](#) got off to a great start this week. We had 12 people start their Level Two training. Here's some initial feedback from our attendees: 'Julie is a lovely tutor and delivers the course really well.' 'It already feels more in-depth than the previous level one, I'm really looking forward to the next sessions.' 'I love it, it was so interesting.' Once again, we're proud of these adults for being role models to our children.





Snapchat – Plea to Parents – Please Delete the App

Snapchat is an age restricted app. They have set a minimum age of 13 years old. This means that any child in our school who is actively using snapchat has entered an incorrect date of birth. They have lied at the point of creating the account. Whilst we may think this isn't an issue and doesn't make much difference, it does.

If your child has registered for Snapchat as a 13-year-old (chances are they've put older than this) the content they are seeing through Snapchat's algorithms will be beyond what is appropriate for their age.

Child's age...	Age on Snapchat...	Seeing the content for...
9	13	13 years +
10	14	14 years +
11	15	15 years +
12	16	16 years +
13	17	17 years +

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SNAPCHAT (13+)

Snapchat is an instant messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to people in their friends list. One of snapchat's unique features is that pictures and messages disappear 24 hours after they've been viewed; however, this content isn't as temporary as many believe – with some users saving screenshots or using another device to take a photo of their screen. This year, Snapchat added 'My AI': a customisable chatbot with which people can chat and share secrets, as well as asking for advice and suggestions of places to visit.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS
Even if your child only connects with people they know, they may still get friend requests from strangers. The Quick Add option lets users befriend people the app recognises. But these 'friends' are merely a username, which could have anyone behind it. Accepting such requests reveals children's personal information through the Story, SnapMap and Spotlight features, potentially putting them at risk from predators.

EXCESSIVE USE
Snapchat works hard on user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score), Spotlight Challenges tempt users into spending time producing content in search of cash prizes and online fame, while it's easy for children to pass hours watching Spotlight's endless scroll of videos.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT
Some videos and posts on Snapchat aren't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the app, even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The 'disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people (teens in particular) to share explicit images or impulses – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

TURN OFF QUICK ADD
The Quick Add feature helps people find each other on the app. This function works based on mutual friends or whether someone's number is in your child's contacts list. Explain to your child that this could potentially make their profile visible to strangers. We recommend that your child turns off Quick Add, which can be done in the settings (accessed via the cog icon).

CHAT ABOUT CONTENT
It may feel like an awkward conversation (and one that young people can be reluctant to have) but it's important to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Remind your child that once something's online, the creator loses control over where it ends up – and who else sees it. Likewise, it's vital that children understand that some challenges which become popular on the platform may have potentially harmful consequences.

MEET OUR EXPERT
Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

ONLINE PRESSURES
Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beauty' effects on photos can set unrealistic body-image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy if a young person compares themselves unfavourably with other users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

VISIBLE LOCATION
Snap Map highlights a device's exact position on a virtual map which is visible to other users. There are options to restrict who can see this information: all friends, only you (Ghost Mode) or selected friends. Snapchat also has real-time location sharing, which is intended as a buddy system to ensure friends have reached home safely – but which could also be used to track a young person for more sinister reasons.

CHOOSE GOOD CONNECTIONS
In 2021, Snapchat rolled out a new safety feature: users can now receive notifications reminding them of the importance of maintaining connections with people they actually know well, as opposed to strangers. This 'Friend Check Up' encourages users to delete connections with users that they rarely communicate with, to maintain their online safety and privacy.

KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE
Profiles are private by default, but children may make them public to gain more followers. Snap Stories are visible to everyone your child adds, unless they change the settings. On SnapMaps, their location is visible unless Ghost Mode is enabled (again via settings). It's safest not to add people your child doesn't know in real life – especially since the addition of My Places, which allows other Snapchat users to see where your child regularly visits and checks in.

DISCUSS AI
Although My AI's responses can often give the impression that it's a real person, it's essential that young people remember this certainly isn't the case. Encourage your child to think critically about My AI's replies to their questions: are they accurate and reliable? Remind them that My AI shouldn't replace chatting with their real friends and that it's always better to talk to an actual person in relation to medical matters.

BE READY TO BLOCK AND REPORT
If a stranger does connect with your child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, your child can select the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user (sending or malicious messages, spam, or masquerading as someone else, for example).

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

@nationalonlinesafety | /NationalOnlineSafety | @nationalonlinesafety | @national_online_safety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 17.06.2023

Potentially by the age of 12 (or before depending on the date of birth they've created when signing up), your child will be seeing content intended for those 16 years and above.

To make Castleway's point of view perfectly clear, we do not support our children being on Snapchat and would strongly encourage all parents to check their child's phone and delete the app as a matter of urgency.

There is plenty of time for our children to use and enjoy these apps when they are older. I would say that we need to allow our children to be children for as long as we possibly can.

Whilst it may make you unpopular in the moment when you delete the app, I'd ask you to think of the benefits of removing a potential threat from your child's innocence that you might not have even considered was there. If you haven't already, when you do your regular checks please delete this app from your child's phone. They can redownload in future at a more age appropriate time.

Please see the 'what parents and carers need to know about Snapchat' guide from The National College.



Free Family Fun Day at The Hive - TOMORROW

FAMILY FUN DAY!



An **OnSide** Youth Zone

**Saturday
27th April
11:00-15:00**



- Climbing wall
- Facepainting
- Bouncy castle
- Football
- Salon
- DJ play
- Cooking
- Therapy dogs
- Games and activities
- Uniformed services...and much more!

Free entry!

POWERED BY **Cadent**
Your Gas Network

Under-18s must be accompanied by an adult



An **OnSide** Youth Zone

☎ 0151 705 8000

🌐 www.thehiveyouthzone.org

📍 Bright Street, Birkenhead CH41 4EA

Registered Charity No. 1163183 Company No. 9267940

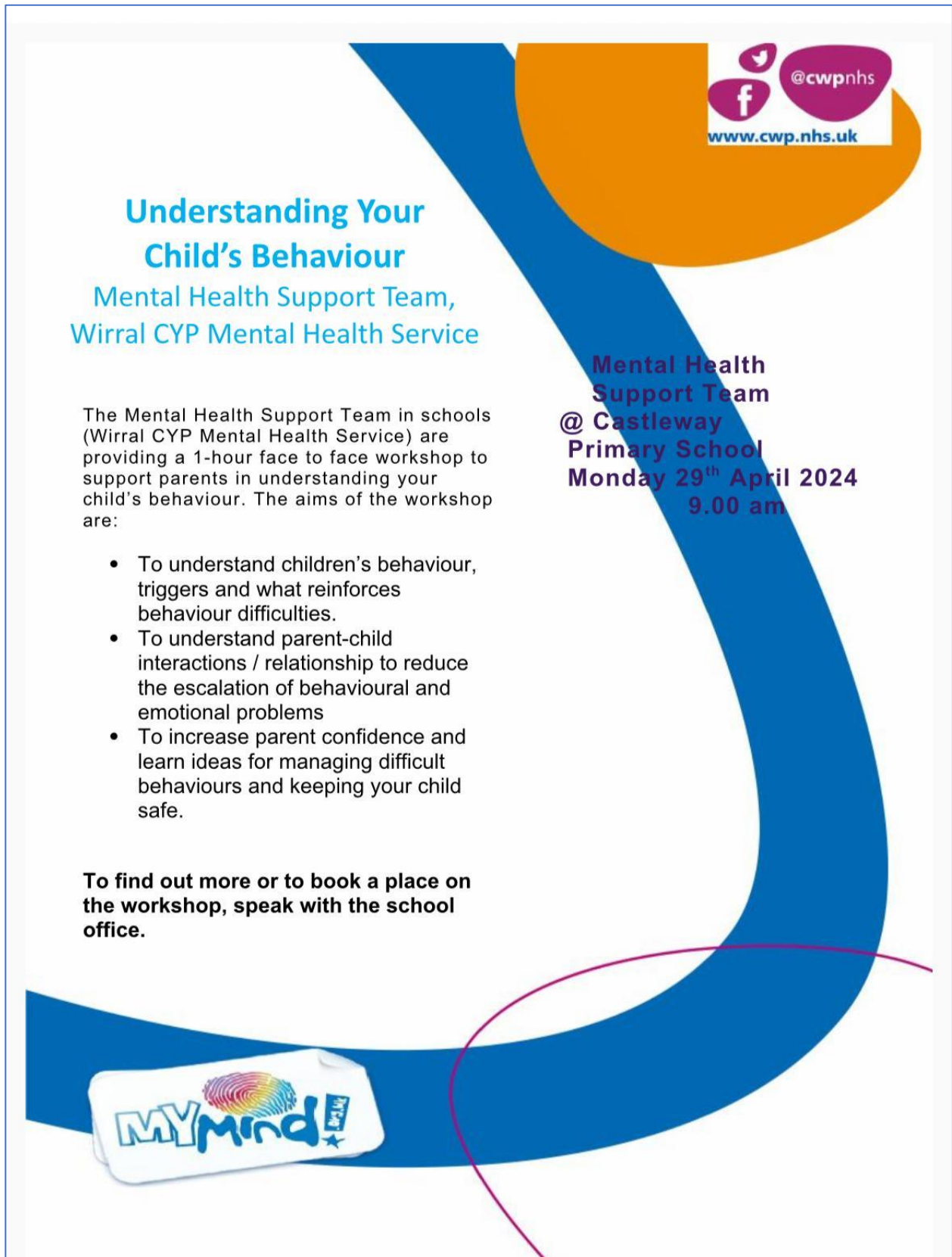


Join our #747 campaign



Understanding Your Child's Behaviour

We're looking forward to welcoming The Mental Health Support Team in to school on Monday for a 1-hour workshop to support our families in understanding children's behaviour. Come along to the to the Community Caravan on the playground straight from drop off on Monday.



**Understanding Your
Child's Behaviour**
Mental Health Support Team,
Wirral CYP Mental Health Service

The Mental Health Support Team in schools (Wirral CYP Mental Health Service) are providing a 1-hour face to face workshop to support parents in understanding your child's behaviour. The aims of the workshop are:

- To understand children's behaviour, triggers and what reinforces behaviour difficulties.
- To understand parent-child interactions / relationship to reduce the escalation of behavioural and emotional problems
- To increase parent confidence and learn ideas for managing difficult behaviours and keeping your child safe.

To find out more or to book a place on the workshop, speak with the school office.

**Mental Health
Support Team
@ Castleway
Primary School
Monday 29th April 2024
9.00 am**

MY Mind

@cwpnhs
www.cwp.nhs.uk



A fabulous start...

Our youngest children have had a superb start to the half term. The children have been learning about animals around the world. They have been looking at animals prints, making habitats and going on a safari outside. There's always lots to learn in Early Years at Castleway!



As you can see, it's been another wonderful week. As always, I wish you a lovely weekend and we're already looking forward to seeing you all on Monday.

Your 'dates for your diary' are available to peruse on the next page.

Kind regards,

Handwritten signature of Mr. S. Mycroft in black ink.

Mr. S. Mycroft
Headteacher



Dates for your Diary

As usual, some of these dates may be subject to change but... #SaveTheDate!

When?	What?	Who?
01/05/24	Nursery School 'Learning Together' Meetings – 9am or 2pm	Nursery School families
13/05/24	Spot on Time Challenge Week!	All children
13/05/24	Start of Y6 Assessment Week – SATs Week 100% Attendance is essential	All Year 6 children
17/05/24	SATs All Folks – Year 6 Special Lunch	All Year 6 children
22/05/24	Seaside EYFS Theme Day – Nursery School & Reception Class	Nursery & Reception Class children
22/05/24	School Disco (Years 1 – 6)	Years 1 – 6
23/05/24	Year 6 Residential Visit to Gulliver's World	Year 6 children
24/05/24	Come Dine with Reception Class – 11:30am	Reception Class families
24/05/24	School Closes - Whitsuntide Half Term Break	All children and staff
03/06/24	Back to School – School reopens	All children and staff
07/06/24	Come Dine with Year 1 – 11:30am	Year 1 families
14/06/24	Come Dine with Year 2 – 11:30am	Year 2 families
19/06/24	Welcome to Team Castleway Reception Class 2024/25 Parents' Meeting – 1:30pm or 5:30pm	New Reception Class families
21/06/24	Come Dine with Year 3 – 11:30am	Year 3 families
26/06/24	Castleway's 'Come as You Are' Day!	All children and staff
26/06/24	Castleway's Annual Pride Picnic	All children & families
28/06/24	Come Dine with Year 4 – 11:30am	Year 4 families
03/07/24	Transition Day – All children with their new teachers!	Primary school children
03/07/24	Stay & Play – New Reception Class Transition	New Reception Class families
04/07/24	Year 2 Curriculum Celebration Afternoon – 2:30pm	Year 2 families
05/07/24	Primary School Sports Day – Families Invited at 1:30pm	Year 1 – Year 6
05/07/24	Come Dine with Year 5 – 11:30am	Year 5 families
08/07/24	Reception Class Curriculum Celebration Afternoon – 2:30pm	Reception Class families
09/07/24	New Reception Class – Family Lunch – 1:30pm	New Reception Class families
09/07/24	Year 1 Curriculum Celebration Afternoon – 2:30pm	Year 1 families
09/07/24	Year 2 Residential Visit	Year 2 children
10/07/24	Nursery School Sports Day & Family Picnic – 10:00am	Nursery School families
10/07/24	Nursery & Reception Class Sports Day & Family Picnic – 1:30pm	Nursery School families
10/07/24	New Reception Class – Family Lunch – 1:30pm	New Reception Class families
10/07/24	Year 3 Curriculum Celebration Afternoon – 2:30pm	Year 3 families
11/07/24	Rocksteady Concert for Families – 10:00am	Rocksteady families
11/07/24	Year 4 Curriculum Celebration Afternoon – 2:30pm	Year 4 families
12/07/24	Year 5 Curriculum Celebration Afternoon – 2:30pm	Year 5 families
12/07/24	Year 6 Annual Sleepover – Return to School at 7:00pm	Year 6 children
12/07/24	Annual Reports out to Parents	All children
16/07/24	Year 6 Curriculum Celebration Afternoon – 2:30pm	Year 6 families
17/07/24	Year 6 Leavers' Disco – 5:30pm	Year 6 children
18/07/24	Come Dine with Year 6 – One Last Dine! 11:30am	Year 6 families
19/07/24	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly – 9:30am	Year 6 children and families
19/07/24	School's Out for Summer! Finishing at the usual times.	All children, staff and families
03/09/24	Back to School!	All children, staff and families

