



# We are Castleway.

**Be kind. Be confident. Be your best.**



Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dear Families,

It's hard to believe that we're at the end of another Castleway week already. As usual there's plenty to celebrate and even more to make sure you've got in your diaries! Friday Update, here we go...

## **We are GOOD!**

You'll be aware that our Nursery School was recently visited by Ofsted.

Castleway Nursery School is different to other Early Years provision in local schools. As a Maintained Nursery School, we have a full inspection for our Early Years Provision. We had two of His Majesty's Inspectors with us for two full days looking at all aspects of Castleway Nursery School life.

I am delighted to share with you that our Nursery School is officially good in **ALL AREAS**.

Our children and families are the reason we do what we do. We don't do what we do for Ofsted but we are incredibly proud to have our hard work acknowledged in this way.

I'm incredibly lucky to be the Headteacher of this fabulous community and lead this wonderful team. [The report is here for you if you've not seen it yet.](#)

Enjoy, it's a **GOOD** read!



**Headteacher: Mr. S. Mycroft**

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## World Mental Health Day

Yesterday was World Mental Health and Castleway turned yellow to celebrate and raise further awareness of the importance of talking about our feelings. Across the day, our children and families had opportunities to take part in Mental Health focused activities. Here's a snapshot of our day...

### *Year 1 Feeling Leafy!*

Year 1's Forest School session had a Mental Health focus. They drew different emotions on to yellow leaves and talked about how they were feeling. They had a fabulous time and were really mature when talking about their feelings... even if they all didn't fancy having their photo taken!



### *Hello Donna! Meeting our MHST Link Worker...*

It was lovely to welcome Donna, our MHST link worker, to Castleway yesterday. We celebrated World Mental Health Day by sharing real life strategies and building valuable relationships. Thanks to all who could join us and extra thanks to those wore yellow too!



### *ACES – Adult Learning Session*

Another highlight of **World Mental Health Day** was hosting a course about ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences) with our friends from Crea8ing Community. Thanks to the brilliant Lynn for leading the session and thanks to everyone who was able to join us. Once again, our adults are proving to be great role models for our children by showing that we are always learning!



### Reception Class in Forest School

Our fabulous Reception Class children have been practicing safe tool use this week, using hammers and nails to create weaving boards. Just look how hard they are concentrating!



### Open Day for Reception Class 2025

Can you believe it is already time to be thinking about our next Reception Class cohort?! We've already had parents making applications for their children and we're thrilled to be the school of choice for more people than ever! We're throwing open the doors to the Castle for those who would like to have a look at us in action on **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October** and **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October**. No appointment is necessary and if you can't make these dates, just let us know and we'll be more than happy to show you around.

### Books at Bedtime

Our annual tradition for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 is back and this time Nursery children are invited too! Books at Bedtime has proved to be a hit each year and we know it'll be even bigger and better this year. 'Save the date' for Tuesday 22nd November at 5pm. There'll be brews for adults in the hall while our children enjoy some reading fun!

*Castteway's Annual Tradition*

# BOOKS AT BEDTIME

TUESDAY 26TH NOVEMBER - 5:00PM - NURSERY, RECEPTION, YEARS 1 & 2

BE KIND. BE CONFIDENT. BE YOUR BEST.



### Y4/5 - Kingswood Residential 2025

We're pleased to share that we have arranged a residential visit to the Kingswood Colomendy Centre for the current Year 4 and 5 classes when. This will take place from **Sunday 2nd March – Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025**. After negotiating a price freeze with the centre, the total cost of this visit to you including transport, is £120.

Full details were shared in the letter from Mr. Kenningham earlier this week via paper copies, School Spider app and email. If you didn't get the letter or would like further information, please see Mr. Kenningham.

### Family Feedback Survey – Primary School

Huge thanks to everyone who took the time to complete the Primary School Family Feedback Survey. From the quick look that I've had so far, I have been overwhelmed with the positivity from our families and the wonderful messages that you have sent in. The Senior Leadership Team and I will be looking at the full survey on Monday and I'll share a breakdown of the key messages after that. In the meantime, here's a snapshot of some of the positives you've said about life at Castleway...

- My child has fun at Castleway. **100% of you agree or strongly agree.**
- Castleway is led and managed well. **100% of you agree or strongly agree.**
- I would recommend Castleway to another parent. **100% of you agree or strongly agree.**



### SENDLO Information Sharing Event

Our whole community is invited to join us for a special **SENDLO Information Sharing Event at Castleway on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November at 9am**. This will be an informal event with a marketplace of SEND services. Come along for a brew and a chat. We look forward to seeing you there. If you need any further information, please see Miss McDonough.

# SENDLO

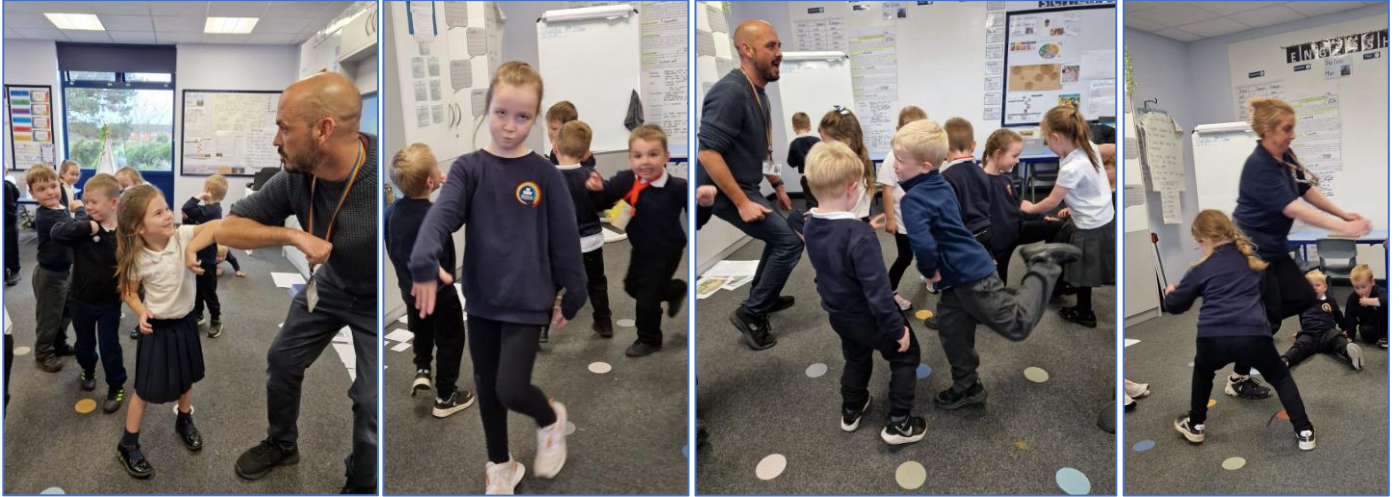
## Wirral's Local Offer of SEND Services



## Extra-Curricular Clubs

This week our full menu of extra-curricular activities started at Castleway. Our children have absolutely loved the after-school activities offered by our staff this week. I'm very grateful to each and every member of staff who has offered their time to run one of our clubs. Here's some highlights from this week...

### *Drama Club for Reception Class & Key Stage One*



### *Lego Challenge Club for Key Stage Two*



### *Craft Club for Year Two*



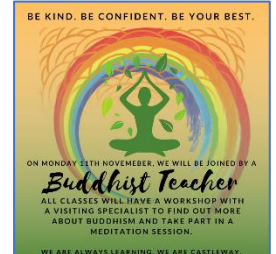
### African Dance Workshops



At Castleway, we're passionate about making sure our children know all about the world around them. We are thrilled to be offering African Dance Workshops for all classes on **Monday 21st October**. Once again, we're bringing the wider world in to our school. It's another fabulous opportunity for our children. The best bit is that thanks to profits from CastleFest, we're able to offer this to our children with no cost to families!

### Buddhist Teacher Visit

In addition to our African Dance Workshops, as one of our curriculum enrichments for this academic year, we're welcoming a Buddhist Teacher to Castleway to lead special workshops with all classes. Children will also get to benefit from a meditation session too! This is something else that will enhance our curriculum at no cost to our families.



### Castleway's Curriculum

We're proud of our curriculum offer at Castleway. What we do at Castleway is more than what happens in the classroom. We constantly refine our curriculum offer and our enhancements to ensure that they're the absolute best for our community. To see 'The CastleWay and Beyond...' documents for each year group for yourself, click on the image below or click here: <https://bit.ly/CastlewaysCurriculum>.



## Come Dine with Year 1

Come Dine with Us has officially restarted for the new academic year. We absolutely loved welcoming our Year 1 families in to Castleway way this week for a good old school dinner! Huge thanks to our wonderful kitchen team for cooking up a storm once again and thanks to our families for joining us. The dates for the rest of our classes are in the 'dates for your diary' section at the end of this update.



**Term Dates 2024/25**

Remember that our term dates for this academic year (and even the next one) are available to view on our website. Holidays during term time will not be authorised and school will follow all local and national guidance. This year’s dates are available to view below. If you click the image, you’ll be taken to our website so you can save both sets of dates!



**Castleway Primary School & Castleway Nursery School – Term Dates 2024 – 2025**

SEPTEMBER (21 days)					OCTOBER (19 days)					NOVEMBER (20 days)				
MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI
2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4					1
9	10	11	12	13	7	8	9	10	11	4	5	6	7	8
16	17	18	19	20	14	15	16	17	18	11	12	13	14	15
23	24	25	26	27	21	22	23	24	25	18	19	20	21	22
30					28	29	30	31		25	26	27	28	29

DECEMBER (15 days)					JANUARY (20 days)					FEBRUARY (15 days)				
MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI
2	3	4	5	6			1	2	3	3	4	5	6	7
9	10	11	12	13	6	7	8	9	10	10	11	12	13	14
16	17	18	19	20	13	14	15	16	17	17	18	19	20	21
23	24	25	26	27	20	21	22	23	24	24	25	26	27	28
30	31				27	28	29	30	31					

MARCH (21 days)					APRIL (11 days)					MAY (16 days)				
MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI
3	4	5	6	7		1	2	3	4				1	2
10	11	12	13	14	7	8	9	10	11	5	6	7	8	9
17	18	19	20	21	14	15	16	17	18	12	13	14	15	16
24	25	26	27	28	21	22	23	24	25	19	20	21	22	23
31					28	29	30			26	27	28	29	30

JUNE (21 days)					JULY (16 days)					Key	
MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	Days	Description
2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	190	School open for children
9	10	11	12	13	7	8	9	10	11	5	INSET
16	17	18	19	20	14	15	16	17	18		School holiday
23	24	25	26	27	21	22	23	24	25	1	Bank holiday
30					28	29	30	31			





## Junior Leadership Team

This week, children have been nominating and voting for the Junior Leadership Team representatives for each class. We will be announcing the full team next week.

### *What is The Junior Leadership Team?*

The Junior Leadership Team is a group of pupils who are elected to represent the views of all pupils and work together to improve their school, the community and the world.

We follow a democratic process to elect the Junior Leaders. If a child wishes to become a Junior Leader, they must give a short speech to their class. A democratic vote then takes place and one child is elected from each class (F2 to Year 5). In addition, our Captains and Vice Captains (elected via vote in Summer Term) also join the Leadership Team to represent Year 6. Our teachers will support individuals as needed. Our Junior Leadership Team must model our school values at all times.

As part of the Junior Leadership Team, children will support the Headteacher, the Senior Leadership Team, teachers and all other members of staff to find ways of improving the school experience for all pupils. The Junior Leadership Team are the representative of all pupils to enable them to have a say in improving their own education and developing new ideas for the future.

The Junior Leadership Team meet staff regularly and discuss issues that are important to the children. They have an agenda, which they create, and a member of the Junior Leadership Team takes the minutes and another chairs the meeting.

### *Why do we have a Junior Leadership Team?*

- To improve the school according to the children's point of view.
- To make sure the children have a platform to voice their opinions.
- To discuss and raise issues that matter to the children.



### *What does the Junior Leadership Team do?*

At Castleway, the Leadership team help lead and manage on 3 key areas:

1. **School projects** – an agenda of school improvement projects is decided upon early on in the year. Children meet together to discuss issues such as playground equipment, curriculum ideas, school reading projects and much more.
2. **Community projects** – the Junior Leadership Team meet together to decide on projects that can have an impact on our local community. Fund raising and volunteering projects that involve families from the community are organised and ran by our Junior Leadership Team.
3. **World projects** – Our Junior Leadership Team also meet together to think about how we can have an impact on the world. Projects involving environmental action, charity fundraising and linking up with other schools across the world enable our Junior Leadership Team to know that they can have a positive impact on the world.

Junior Leadership Team members have to agree to follow our Code of Conduct if elected. [The code of conduct is here.](#)



It's a big job but I have every faith that our new team will rise to the challenge and relish their new responsibilities.

We'll share the results of the class elections very soon!

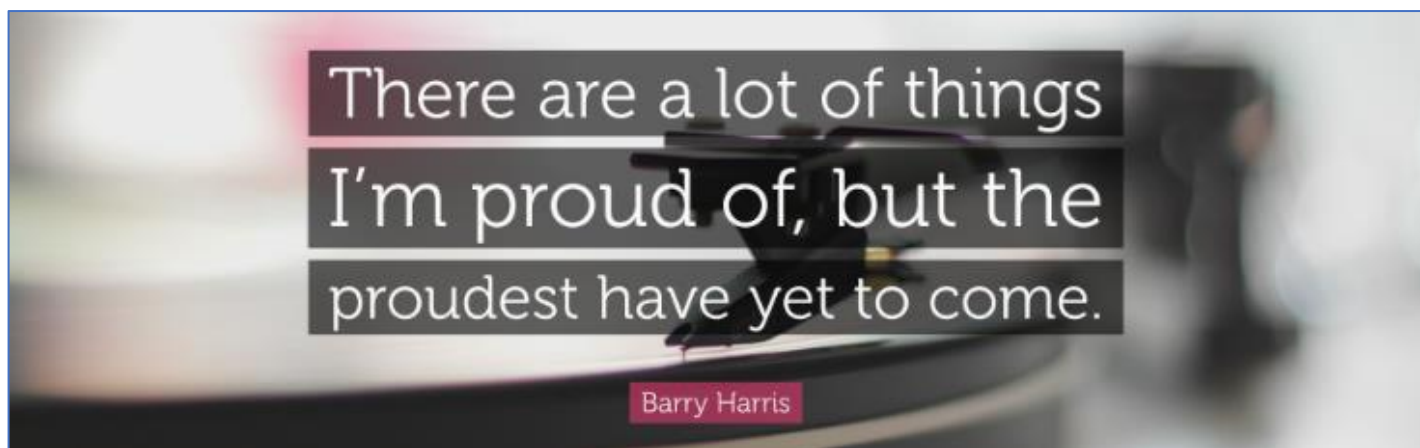


## PE Timetable

Please see the updated PE timetable for all Primary School children. PE with Mr. Davies is now spread across the week. All classes enjoy 2 PE sessions per week, one led by Mr. Davies and the other by the class teacher. This timetable comes in to effect on Monday.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 5 Year 1 Year 6	F2 Year 3	F2 Year 3 Year 5 Year 6	Year 2 Year 4	Year 1 Year 2 Year 4

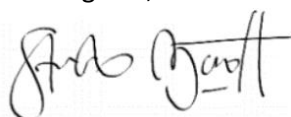
- All children (Year 1 – 6) are expected to wear Castleway's agreed PE kit. If you're having any issues sourcing items, please let us know. Please remember that children in F2 (Reception Class) do not need to wear PE kit yet.



The quote above (you all know I love a good quote) really sums up how I feel about Castleway. There is so much to be proud of but there are plenty of proud moments still to come.

Have the best weekend and I'll see you all on Monday.

Kind regards,



Mr. S. Mycroft  
Headteacher



## #CastleDates for your Diary

When?	What?	Who?
16/10/24 11:30am	<b>Come Dine with Year 2</b> Bookings via School Spider Please	Year 2 Families
21/10/24	<b>African Dance Workshops</b>	All children
22/10/24	<b>EYFS Spooky Fun Day</b> Non-uniform – wear your spookiest outfit!	Nursery School & F2 children
22/10/24	<b>Spooky Disco!</b> £1.50 per ticket (includes drink & snacks) via School Spider  10:50 – 11:20 – Nursery School 14:20 – 14:50 – Nursery School 14:50 – 15:20 – F2 & KS1 15:25 – 16:00 – KS2	All children  Children in Years 1 – 6 bring their disco clothes to change in to. <b>Uniform as normal all day for Years 1 - 6.</b>
23/10/24 11:30am	<b>Come Dine with Year 3</b> Bookings available soon via School Spider	Year 3 Families
24/10/24 09:30	<b>Harvest Assembly – Performed by Year 2</b>	Year 2 Families
24/10/24	<b>Finish for October Half Term at the usual times</b>	All children and staff
25/10/24	<b>INSET 2 – School Closed to Children</b>	Staff Training Day
04/11/24	<b>INSET 3 – School Closed to Children</b>	Staff Training Day
05/11/24	<b>Back to School</b>	
06/11/24 11:30am	<b>Come Dine with Year 4</b> Bookings available soon via School Spider	Year 4 Families
06/11/24	<b>Parents’ Evening (3:30 – 6:30pm)</b> Bookings available soon via School Spider	Nursery & Primary School Families
07/11/24	<b>Parents’ Evening (3:30 – 5:00pm)</b> Bookings available soon via School Spider	Nursery & Primary School Families
11/11/24	<b>Buddhist Teacher Visit</b>	All classes
13/11/24 11:30am	<b>Come Dine with Year 5</b> Bookings available soon via School Spider	Year 5 Families
20/11/24 11:30am	<b>Come Dine with Year 6</b> Bookings available soon via School Spider	Year 6 Families
22/11/24	<b>Books at Bedtime</b> 5:00pm back at school	Nursery, F2, Year 1 & Year 2 Children
25/11/24	<b>SENDLO Information Sharing Event</b> 9:00am in the school hall	All families and community members
27/11/24 11:30am	<b>Come Dine with F2</b> Bookings available soon via School Spider	F2 Families
02/03/24	<b>Year 4 &amp; 5 Residential Visit (02/03/24 – 05/03/24)</b>	Year 4 & 5 children
20/12/24	<b>School Closes for Christmas at the Usual Times</b>	All children, staff and families
06/12/25	<b>Back to school! Happy new Year!</b>	All children, staff and families



Sorry to mention Christmas before Halloween but there are some Festive Dates for your Diary on the next page.

We’re currently just finalising our booking with Father Christmas about our popular ‘Breakfast with Santa’ making a comeback this year! More information very soon.



### Festive Dates for your Diary

<b>When?</b>	<b>Festive Activities!</b>	<b>Who?</b>
06/12/24	<b>KS2 Christmas Concert</b> 9:30am or 2:30pm	Years 3 – 6 Families
11/12/24	<b>Songs Around the Christmas Tree</b> 9:30 and 2:30	Early Years Families (Nursery School & Reception Class)
12/12/24	<b>Christmas Jumper Day</b> (Swap shop to be arranged)	All children and staff
12/12/24	<b>Christmas Fayre – Straight from Pick Up at 3:25pm</b>	Our whole community
13/12/24	<b>Year 1 &amp; Year 2 Nativity</b> 9:30am or 2:30pm	Year 1 & 2 Families
17/12/24	<b>Winter Discos &amp; Early Years Fun Day</b>	Disco – Years 1 – 6 Fun Day – EYFS (Nursery & Reception)

