



We are Castleway.

Be kind. Be confident. Be your best.



Friday, 18th October 2024

Dear Families,

We're fast approaching the end of half term but as always for Castleway, that doesn't mean we're slowing down! There's still plenty to come next week and, as you'd expect, there's plenty to celebrate from this week too. Here's your Friday Update celebrating all things Castleway...

Year 3's Stone Age Day

Year 3 have had an amazing day travelling back to the Stone Age today as part of their curriculum enrichment. The children have loved combining history with creativity and a little humour to consolidate their learning about the Stone Age. Their day started with an interactive timeline and a very unique 'Show and tell' where the children got to pass around the clothes, furs and tools of our ancestors. We'll be sharing lots of photographs on our Facebook page so keep an eye out there.



SENDLO Information Sharing Event

Remember that our whole community is invited to join us for a special **SENDLO Information Sharing Event** at on **Monday 25th 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.

Headteacher: Mr. S. Mycroft

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

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Spooky EYFS Fun Day

Remember that it's **Spooky Fun Day on Tuesday for Early Years Children**. This means that it's a non-uniform day for children in Nursery School or F2. All other children should wear their uniform. We're asking for a donation of £1.50 per child for the day which includes their disco entrance, drinks and snacks. This is payable via School Spider or with cash at the classroom door.



Spooky Discos

Our **Spooky Discos are taking place on Tuesday for all children**. Children in Years 1 – 6 should wear their uniform and bring their party clothes with them to change in to ready for their disco! We're asking for a donation of £1.50 per child which includes their drink and snacks. This is payable via School Spider or with cash at the classroom door.

Following feedback from families, we changed the structure of our discos last year. We'll be following the same timings again this year. Timings for the discos are as follows:

- 10:50 – 11:20 – Nursery School
- 14:20 – 14:50 – Nursery School
- 14:50 – 15:20 – F2 & KS1 (Reception, Year 1 & Year 2)
- 15:25 – 16:00 – KS2 (Year 3, 4, 5 & 6)



Meet our Junior Leadership Team

Our Junior Leadership Team have been presented with their new badges today! We are excited about the impact that this year's leaders will have in helping us to further improving our school.



Cracking Coders!

Mr. Kenningham has been very impressed with the skills of our Y5 & 6 children at his weekly coding club! It's safe to say that we definitely have some tech-moguls of the future at Castleway!



Family Feedback Survey – Primary School

Huge thanks to everyone who took the time to complete the Primary School Family Feedback Survey. I shared our results with families this week via the School Spider App, our website and email. If you missed the letter and want to know all of the fabulous things families like about our school, [it's here for you](#).




CastleWave Radio – On Air!

This week saw the launch of CastleWave Radio! We have a team of talented DJs from our Year 6 class who have been selected as our first ever school DJs. We've had a great first week with some wonderful songs played and some confident on air links from our DJs too. CastleWave Radio is currently live each day in the dining room during lunch time. We're hoping to be able to expand where our children can listen to our radio broadcasts in the near future.



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.



Come Dine with Year 2

Huge thanks to all of our Year 2 families who were able to **#ComeDineWithUs** on Wednesday. We love welcoming our families in to Castleway and we love extra helpings of school cake too! Thanks, once again, to our wonderful kitchen team for another delicious meal.



Punctuality Reminder

Please remember that arriving on time for school is incredibly important. Arriving even 5 minutes late can mean that learning has been missed and walking in to the classroom after their peers can cause unnecessary anxiety for children.

- **Gates open at 8:45am**
- **Doors open at 8:50am**
- **Learning starts at 8:55am**
- **Gates will be closed by 9:00am**

These times are not new, I'm simply sharing as a reminder for us all. Any children arriving after 8:55am or via the main office will be recorded as late. Arriving after 9:20am means that your child receives a 'late after registration closed' code which is the equivalent of an absent mark. Parents are reminded that the Local Authority are taking a tougher stance on punctuality in line with their new attendance guidance. Fines will also be issued for absence associated with lateness.

Positive punctuality is a skill for life. We all know that as adults, arriving late for work each day, even if just 5 minutes, would not do us any favours with our employers! This is something that was instilled in me as a child by my mum so I am keen to make sure that all Castleway children have the same high expectations of themselves. Whilst we may think that a few minutes lateness here and there mightn't hurt, it really does make a difference. Please see the image below for an idea of how those minutes rack up.



The vast majority of our families are on time each day and I would like to thank you all for your continued help and support. It really does make all the difference.



Attendance Matters at Castleway - Reminder



Families will be aware of our 96% attendance target and of the importance of attending school each and every day.

We have sent a number of letters with regards to the systems and processes in place with relation to attendance. The most recent letter reminded parents of the changes to national legislation and the local arrangements being enforced by Wirral Council.

I'm sharing the key points from my most recent letter (16/09/24) again for you here.

The new national framework that has been introduced for fines due to unauthorised absences means there are significant changes that you need to be aware of. We would like to stress that this is a national framework that all school will need to comply with. This is not a case of 'Castleway fining you' but the national framework

being followed and the Local Authority (Wirral Council) issuing the fine.

Penalty Notices are increasing to £160. This can be reduced to £80 but only for the first Penalty Notice issued, if paid within 21 days – this reduction does not apply to any subsequent Penalty Notice.

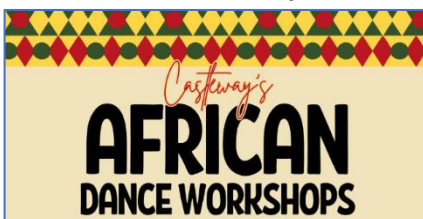
Any 2nd Penalty Notice, to the same parent for the same child, issued within three years of the date of the first Penalty Notice will be charged at £160.

A third Penalty Notice will not be issued within a three-year rolling period, to the same parent for the unauthorised absence of the same child, – alternative action or legal measures will be utilised for subsequent offences.

In some circumstances a 'Notice to Improve' may be issued – However, a Notice to Improve will only be used in cases where support is appropriate. They will not be issued in cases of unauthorised leave in term time for holidays, where information for families is included on our website or a simple warning by the school that a Penalty Notice could be issued if unauthorised leave in term time is taken will suffice. In line with the Wirral Attendance Policy, if your child is absent for 10 school sessions within a 10-week rolling period and that absence is unauthorised, you may be subject to a Penalty Notice fine.

Whilst I understand that holidays are cheaper for families during term time, school cannot authorise term time holidays. We are in the process of writing to individual families with regards to term time holidays that we are aware of. Again, please be aware we are following the local and national guidance on this issue.

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 **this coming Monday**. 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!



Castleway's Christmas Markets

We know that Mariah Carey hasn't defrosted for the festive season yet and there's still Halloween to come but we couldn't wait to share the news of our Community Christmas Market with you all! Save the date for Monday 2nd December from 3:25pm. It's for our whole community and will be free to enter with a free hot chocolate too! You'll also get to see Santa and browse the festive finery of many local stallholders. We HoHoHope you can make it!

Castleway's
CHRISTMAS MARKET

FREE TO ENTER FOR OUR WHOLE COMMUNITY!
WE'LL ALSO HAVE A VISIT FROM SANTA HIMSELF!

FREE HOT CHOCOLATE AND STALLS SELLING
FOOD, DRINKS, GIFTS & TREATS

MONDAY 2ND DECEMBER FROM 3:30PM
CASTLEWAY PRIMARY SCHOOL, CASTLEWAY NORTH, CH46 1RN

Thank you all for another wonderful week. I hope you have a wonderful weekend and I'll see you all on Monday for the last week of this half term.

Dates for your diary are on the next page.

Kind regards,

Mr. S. Mycroft
Headteacher



#CastleDates for your Diary

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

When?	Festive Activities!	Who?
06/12/24	KS2 Christmas Concert 9:30am or 2:30pm	Years 3 – 6 Families
11/12/24	Songs Around the Christmas Tree 9:30 and 2:30	Early Years Families (Nursery School & Reception Class)
12/12/24	Christmas Jumper Day (Swap shop to be arranged)	All children and staff
12/12/24	Christmas Fayre – Straight from Pick Up at 3:25pm	Our whole community
13/12/24	Year 1 & Year 2 Nativity 9:30am or 2:30pm	Year 1 & 2 Families
16/12 – 20/12	Breakfast with Santa	All families (booking essential)
17/12/24	Winter Discos & Early Years Fun Day	Disco – Years 1 – 6 Fun Day – EYFS (Nursery & Reception)

Breakfast with Santa will be back again for 2024!

This year, we're welcoming Father Christmas back to Castleway and he's excited to meet you all for Breakfast. **#SaveTheDate** 16/12, 18/12, 19/12 & 20/12 from 9:15am. £5 per adult attending. All Castleway children free with their paying adult. Booking will be open via School Spider soon.



Castleway's
BREAKFAST
with Santa

FAMILY EVENT | PHOTO OPPORTUNITY WITH SANTA
MONDAY 16TH - FRIDAY 20TH DECEMBER

£5 PER ADULT - ALL CASTLEWAY CHILDREN ARE FREE WITH THEIR PAYING ADULT

 Castleway Primary School ● ● ● www.castleway.wirral.sch.uk 

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