



# We are Castleway.

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



Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> November 2024

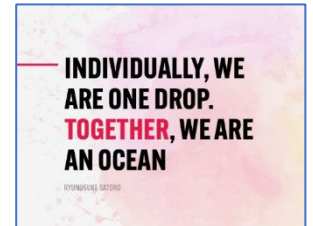
Dear Families,

What a fabulous first week back we've had! Castleway has sprung back to life and having our corridors and classrooms full of learning and laughter once again has been wonderful.

Here's our first Friday Update of this half term...

## Parents' Evening – Autumn Term 2024

We've loved welcoming families in to school this week to discuss our amazing children. There was a lovely feeling around school on both nights and our children loved reading their positivity notes that you left. Thanks to those of you who have shared your feedback with us via the google form, your voice really matters to us. Just look at some of the wonderful comments that have been shared!



- **'I am so proud of the progress my children have made so far this year, they are thriving and are happy. One in particular has improved in so many areas. Lots of hard work from children and their teachers make a very happy and proud mummy and daddy.'**
- **'Was good to find out how kids were doing. Proud.'**
- **'Seeing Mr. Smith first was so reassuring to hear how my boy is doing was music to my ears, thank you. Seeing Mrs. Rowlands and meeting her was so good I felt comfortable talking to her about my boy's progress, she understood me, and I feel confident she will bring my boy on in her class. Thank you.'**
- **'It was really nice to hear how my children are doing and getting to know their teachers better. I found it very interesting as I was didn't realise at which level they were at. I really enjoyed looking through their school work so far this year. I found it very a pleasant atmosphere and Mr. Smith assured me he was not only for my son but he was there for me too.'**
- **'Lovely having the opportunity to sit and chat about our children's progress this year so far. We enjoyed having a look through some of their workbooks and leaving them a little note to read when they return to school. We were advised on how to offer support for F2 at home with phonics to help them become more familiar with sounds that haven't quite stuck yet. Having been part of the Castleway family for a few years now, I feel really comfortable talking to my children's teachers. I'm really pleased and proud of their progress so far this year and look forward to the next one! Thank you all for everything you do to support and teach our little people.'**
- **'They were kind and very honest. Best two teachers!'**
- **'It was so amazing to hear how well my daughter is getting on with her phonics, writing & maths skills & also amazing to hear how she's so kind to everyone and notices when they are down she will always try and cheer them up. Never been so proud. Thank you so much for everything you do for my children.'**
- **'Happy with my child's report, the teacher provided good advice and what next steps need to be taken and highlighted an area of concern that we were concerned about too.'**

**The rearranged Year 4 Parents' Evening will take place on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November between 2:00pm and 6:00pm.** As usual, bookings will be via School Spider. We will confirm the rearranged Year 5 date as soon as possible. Thank you, as always, for your flexibility and support.

**Headteacher: Mr. S. Mycroft**

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**Goodbye & Good Luck Mrs. Kirk!**

Mrs. Kirk came to see us to say goodbye yesterday! After being such a big part of the Castleway family for 13 years, on behalf of the children, staff, governors and families, we would like to thank her for everything she has done during her time here, and we know you will join us in wishing her all the best for the future!



**Come Dine with Year 4**

Our 'Come Dine with Us' lunches really are a highlight of our week! After starting these just over 3 years ago, they really have become a staple of the Castleway diary. This week, we welcomed our Year 4 families in to dine with us and they were all treated to another delicious meal from our fabulous kitchen team. Dates of the remaining CDWU events are list on the last page of this update.



## Book Delivery for the JLT!

Members of our **Junior Leadership Team** received a very special delivery from our friends at Learning by Questions this week. We love that we've been gifted even more brilliantly diverse books showcasing inspirational role models to add to our library!



## Building Emotional Resilience

Facing unpleasant feelings can be a challenge, even for adults – let alone for children and young people, whose minds are still developing.

To many youngsters, a mistake in an exam, a hurtful word or even losing in a game can sometimes feel like the worst thing in the world, causing them to react accordingly. However, this isn't always an effective way to deal with difficult emotions or life's setbacks, so it's important that parents and educators are able to impress a healthy approach to these feelings on the children in their care.

The guide we are sharing offers you expert tips on how to instil emotional resilience in young people, helping them to learn from unexpected feelings and situations – and to process them in a mature, effective manner.

Remember that we are always here to talk to if you want any advice or support on how to promote emotional resilience with your children.

At The National College, our **WakeUpWednesday** guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](https://nationalcollege.com).

# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE TO BUILD EMOTIONAL RESILIENCE

With increasing societal pressures, many children struggle with managing emotions, facing challenges and processing failure in a healthy way. This is why building emotional resilience in young people is vital for their mental health and personal success. This guide provides practical strategies for parents and educators to help children develop resilience and foster confidence, adaptability and a positive mindset.

- 1 ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION**  
Regularly engaging children in open dialogue fosters trust and emotional expression. Encourage them to share their thoughts and feelings freely without judgment. Set aside time daily, perhaps during dinner, to ask open-ended questions such as, "What's made you happy today?". This encourages children to express themselves openly.
- 2 MODEL POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR**  
Children often learn how to manage emotions by observing adults. By modelling calm and positive responses to challenges, you can teach them valuable emotional management skills. If you've had a difficult day, verbalise how you're feeling and explain how you plan to handle it, such as, "I'm a bit worked-up, so I'm going for a walk to clear my mind."
- 3 TEACH PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS**  
Helping children break down challenges into manageable steps encourages a proactive mindset. Explain that every problem has a solution, even if it's not immediately obvious. For example, if a child is stuck on homework, support them in breaking the task into smaller steps, saying things like, "Let's focus on just this first question for now."
- 4 FOSTER A GROWTH MINDSET**  
Encourage young people to view mistakes as learning opportunities. A growth mindset helps them see setbacks as part of the process, rather than something to be upset about. After a child loses a game or performs poorly on a test, for example, ask them what they've learned from the experience. This reinforces the idea that effort – and even failure – leads to improvement.
- 5 PROMOTE SELF-CARE PRACTICES**  
Teaching children about self-care helps them understand the importance of balancing work with relaxation to maintain emotional wellbeing. Parents and carers could start a screen-free hour before bedtime where the family engages in relaxing activities like reading, setting an example to the child for how to unwind.
- 6 BUILD HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS**  
Strong relationships with peers and adults provide a support system that enhances resilience. Encourage positive, respectful interactions to develop social skills. Playdates or group activities can be instrumental in teaching children how to resolve conflicts with friends by modelling and practising calm communication.
- 7 SUPPORT EMOTIONAL AWARENESS**  
Helping children to identify and name their emotions allows them to manage those feelings more effectively. When a child's upset, encourage them to talk to you about what they're feeling in an empathetic and supportive manner, and ask them why they might be experiencing those emotions.
- 8 ENCOURAGE INDEPENDENCE**  
Giving children opportunities to make their own decisions builds confidence and problem-solving skills. A good example of this would be letting children choose and pack their own lunches for school, guiding them with options but allowing them to assume responsibility for the task to help them take ownership.
- 9 DEVELOP COPING STRATEGIES**  
Teaching children techniques like mindfulness, deep breathing or journaling can help them to manage stress. Show them how to perform breathing exercises when they're feeling anxious, and practise this regularly. Reinforcing this behaviour in young people will make it easier for them to use these techniques of their own accord during stressful moments.
- 10 CELEBRATE SMALL WINS**  
Recognising effort, no matter how small, reinforces perseverance and encourages children to keep trying. After a child completes a difficult task, makes progress on a project or reaches another type of personal goal, praise their efforts. Emphasise the hard work they've put in and be sure to let them know how proud you are.

**Meet Our Expert**  
Adam Gill is Associate Vice Principal for Personal Development at Penistone Grammar School and works on a secondment one day a week for Minds Ahead, which works with schools on improving their mental health provisions.

**#WakeUpWednesday** The National College

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### Reading Café is Back

Reading Café is back for the new academic year! Due to our Curriculum Celebration Afternoons and our big Castleway Christmas plans, we are inviting Years 4 & 5 families to join us on the dates below from 3:00pm for a brew and a book!

📖 12/11/24 from 3:00pm

📖 19/11/24 from 3:00pm

📖 26/11/24 from 3:00pm



### Curriculum Celebration Afternoons

As you'll know, our Curriculum Celebration Afternoons are another way that we share our children's progress with our families. During these afternoons, you have the chance to look through all of your child's books and discuss their learning with them in person. You'll also be put through your paces in one of our Castleway quizzes!

**All events start at 2:30pm** and dates for all Primary School classes are below:



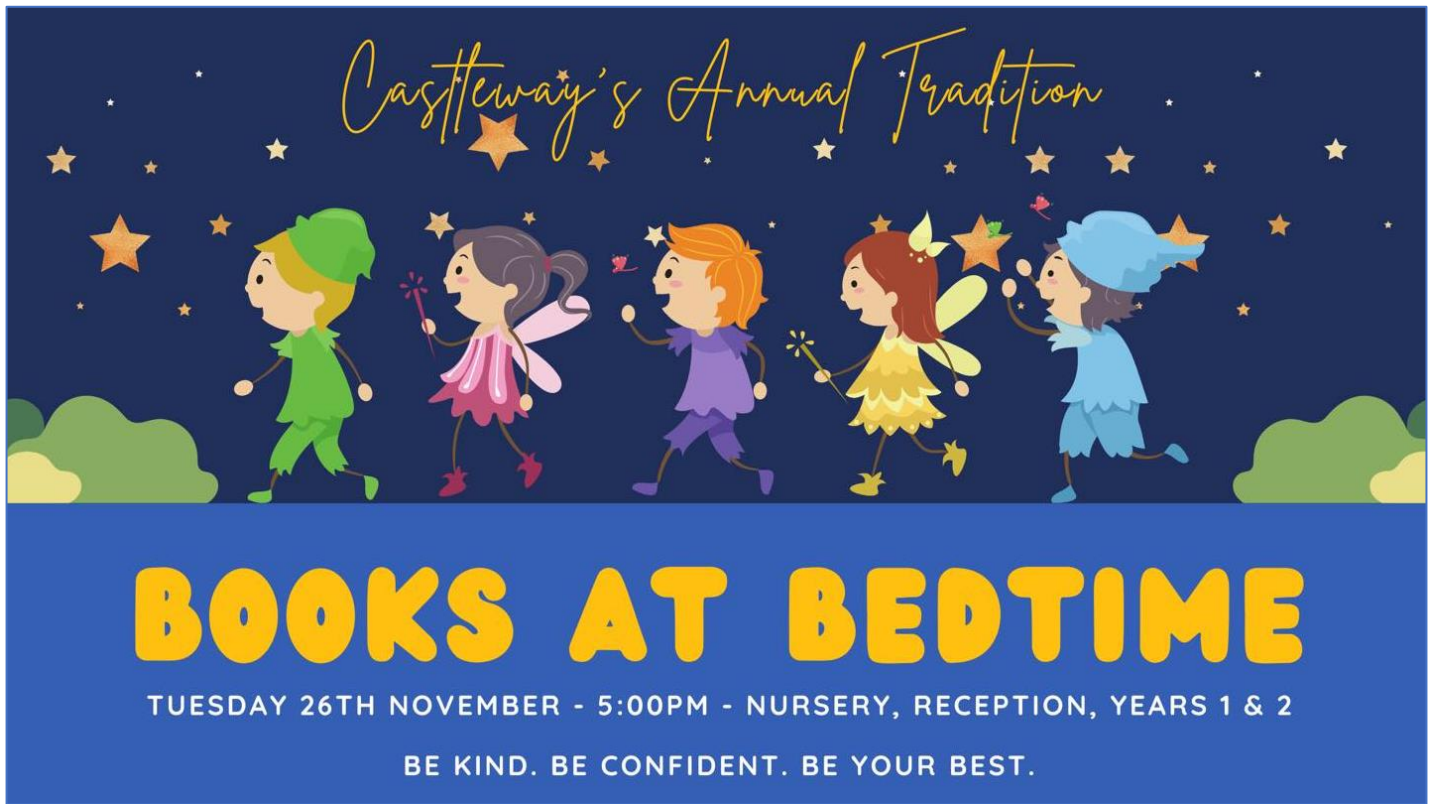
- 🧐 F2 - 28/11
- 🧐 1P - 29/11
- 🧐 2R - 02/12
- 🧐 3S - 03/12
- 🧐 3W - 04/12
- 🧐 4D - 10/12
- 🧐 5C - 05/12
- 🧐 6K - 09/12

Please note the unavoidable changes to the date for Year 4 and Year 6. We can't wait to celebrate our children's learning with you all!



## **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!



## **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.



## **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 far 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.

Thank you for your continued help and support. We'll see you all

Kind regards,

Mr. S. Mycroft  
Headteacher



## #CastleDates for your Diary

When?	What?	Who?
11/11/24	<b>Buddhist Teacher Visit</b>	All classes
13/11/24	<b>Year 2 Visit to Liverpool</b>	Year 2 children
13/11/24 11:30am	<b>Come Dine with Year 5</b> Bookings available via School Spider	Year 5 Families
-----	<b>Year 5 Visit to Planetarium – POSTPONED – New Date TBC</b>	Year 5 children
15/11/24	<b>Non-Uniform Day – Children in Need</b> <b>£1 Donation is welcome but not expected.</b>	All children and staff
15/11/24	<b>Year 6 Representatives at Anfield</b> <b>Show Racism the Red Card</b>	Parents of Year 6 children who are attending have been contacted.
20/11/24	<b>Year 6 Trip to International Slavery Museum</b>	Year 6 children
22/11/24 11:30am	<b>Come Dine with Year 6</b> Bookings available via School Spider	Year 6 families
25/11/24	<b>SENDLO Information Sharing Event</b> 9:00am in the school hall	All families and community members
26/11/24	<b>Books at Bedtime</b> 5:00pm back at school	Nursery, F2, Year 1 & Year 2 children
27/11/24	<b>Year 4 Rescheduled Parents' Evening</b> Booking will be via School Spider	Year 4 families
27/11/24 11:30am	<b>Come Dine with F2</b> Bookings available soon via School Spider	F2 families
28/11/24	<b>F2 Curriculum Celebration Afternoon</b> 2:30pm in the school hall	F2 families
29/11/24	<b>Individual and Sibling Photographs</b>	All children
29/11/24	<b>1P Curriculum Celebration Afternoon</b> 2:30pm in the school hall	Year 1 families
02/12/24	<b>2R Curriculum Celebration Afternoon</b> 2:30pm in the school hall	Year 2 families
02/12/24	<b>Community Christmas Markets &amp; Castleway Grotto</b> 3:25pm start	Whole Community Event
03/12/24	<b>3S Curriculum Celebration Afternoon</b> 2:30pm in the school hall	Year 3 families
04/12/24	<b>3W Curriculum Celebration Afternoon</b> 2:30pm in the school hall	Year 3 families
05/12/24	<b>5C Curriculum Celebration Afternoon</b> 2:30pm in the school hall	Year 5 families
09/12/24	<b>6K Curriculum Celebration Afternoon</b> 2:30pm in the school hall	Year 6 families
10/12/24	<b>4D Curriculum Celebration Afternoon</b> 2:30pm in the school hall	Year 4 families
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
02/03/24	<b>Years 4 &amp; 5 Residential Visit (02/03/24 – 05/03/24)</b>	Year 4 & 5 children



## Festive Dates for your Diary

When?	Festive Activities!	Who?
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> 9:30am and 2:30pm	Early Years Families (Nursery School & Reception Class)
12/12/24	<b>Year 3 Violin Concert</b> 9:30am	Year 3 Families
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
16/12 – 20/12	<b>Breakfast with Santa</b>	All families (booking essential)
17/12/24	<b>Winter Discos &amp; Early Years Fun Day</b>	Disco – Years 1 – 6 Fun Day – EYFS (Nursery & Reception)



# CASTLEWAY



*Christmas at*

- 2/12 Christmas Markets and Grotto at Castleway from 3:25pm
- 6/12 Key Stage 2 Christmas Concert - 9:30am & 2:30pm
- 11/12 Songs around the Christmas Tree - Early Years
- 12/12 Christmas Jumper Day - Swap Shop Coming Soon
- 12/12 Community Christmas Fayre - From 3:25pm
- 16/12 Birkenhead Lions' Parade Starts at Castleway - 4:30pm
- 17/12 Christmas Discos and Early Years Winter Fun Day
- 18/12 Christmas Dinner Day!
- 19/12 Whole School Party Day... with a special guest! 🎅






**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](http://www.castleway.wirral.sch.uk)



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