



We are Castleway.

Be kind. Be confident. Be your best.



Friday, 10th January 2025

Dear Families,

Happy new year! Well, this has been a frosty start to 2025 hasn't it. We haven't let that stop the Castleway magic from happening though. We've loved welcoming everyone back to school this week and once again our corridors and classrooms are full of laughter, learning and memory making. I hope you're ready for our first Friday Update of 2025. Here we go...

Glow in the Dark Dodgeball

What better way to end the first week back at school than with glow in the dark dodgeball. What an incredible experience this was for our children. Needless to say, memories were made and our children are already asking when we're doing it again!



Headteacher: Mr. S. Mycroft

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Chinese New Year Workshops

Children from F2 to Year 3 started this new term learning all about Chinese New Year! We loved welcoming our visiting specialist to Castleway on Monday to further enhance our children's understanding of Chinese New Year and the wonderful traditions around this special time of year.



Cold weather? That's snow problem!

3S made the most of what was left of the snow in Forest School on Tuesday afternoon. Despite the hailstones, they managed to make snowballs and explore the ice and slush before their hands got too numb!



Car Park Survey – What do you think?

This week our car park has been closed to all non-staff members (with the obvious exception of blue badge holders) each morning from 8:30am. We have actually had a significant amount of positive feedback from families to staff members on the gate about this and how it has made moving around the school site feel much safer.



As you know, your feedback means a lot to me and I do like to use your thoughts to help inform my decision-making process. I am inviting families to give me their thoughts on this via a short google form survey. The survey can be accessed here: <https://bit.ly/CastlewayCarParkSurvey>.

The survey was shared this morning via school spider and already we've had 22 responses representing 39 children across both of our schools. We'll leave the survey open over the weekend so please do try to find the time to share your thoughts.



Twickenham Drive Traffic Concerns



Thank you to those of you who have taken the time to raise concerns with me this week about the traffic on Twickenham Drive during drop off and pick up times. Those of you who have been with us a while will remember that we have shared concerns with the council previously about this busy point and the lack of suitable crossing options for our families. As Castleway has grown, we are now serving more families than ever before. This is something that I have made sure the relevant authorities are aware of. The work we have been doing on our 'active travel plan' has meant that we now have a key contact point at the council and we've been able to get further with our request.

So far, the official response from Wirral Council is: *'Thank you for the request for a School Crossing Patrol or alternate crossing facilities. We will review this request and get back to you with an update. Requests for new School Crossing Patrol sites can take time as different sets of surveys need to be undertaken during the school year, in line with the council's adopted criteria.'*

Whilst this isn't the 'green light' for any form of decision from the council, it is a big step in terms of having the need acknowledged. I will keep you posted with any developments as soon as I hear anything.

F2 – Class of 2025/26

Don't forget that the deadline for applications for our next F2 class is Wednesday 15th January! If you need the link to Wirral's portal, it's here: <https://bit.ly/CastlewayF2September2025>. We've only sent a couple of reminders as we've been overwhelmed by the number of applications so far. The quotes below shows some of the highlights from our recent Ofsted inspection in the primary school. If you know someone who hasn't yet applied, share this with them to encourage them to get their application in for the chance to come and join the family!



Still to come at Castleway...


As you know, there's always something to look forward to at Castleway! Remember that every day counts and if you miss it, you miss out! Here's a snapshot of just some of the events coming up over the next few weeks at Castleway. The 'dates for your diary' is available on the last page of this update. Make sure you've got the key events in your calendar!

 <p><i>Year 3's Reading Cafe</i></p> <p>08/01/25 - 2:45pm 22/01/25 - 2:45pm 29/01/25 - 2:45pm 05/02/25 - 2:45pm 12/02/25 - 2:45pm</p> <p><i>Be kind. Be confident. Be your best.</i></p>	 <p>CAMP FIRE <i>Stories</i></p> <p>14TH JANUARY 2025</p> <p>Y3 & Y4 - 4:15 - 4:45 Y5 & Y6 - 4:45 - 5:15</p> <p><i>Be kind. Be confident. Be your best.</i></p>
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Thursday 16th January

**A TASTE OF THE
WILD WEST
SPECIAL LUNCH**



CASTLEWAY AT THE
ZOO

WHOLE SCHOOL TRIP
FRIDAY 17TH JANUARY 2025

BE KIND. BE CONFIDENT. BE YOUR BEST.

*Cool to be
Kind Day*



Monday, 10th February 2025

Be kind. Be confident. Be your best.



THE CASTLEWAY

Valentine's
DISCO

MONDAY 10TH FEBRUARY 2025

BE KIND. BE CONFIDENT. BE YOUR BEST.



Forest School

Forest School is a huge part of our offer at Castleway. As always, we constantly review our timetable to ensure that as many children as possible benefit from time in our magical forest. Please see the timetable for whole class sessions for this term. Where children are involved in our small group sessions, families will be informed separately.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
F2 & 2R	3S	5C	3W	1P

PE Timetable

Please see the timetable below for when children need to wear their Castleway kits to school.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3S & 3W		F2, 5C, 1P & 2R	2R & 4D	4D & 6K

Toy Reminder

Please remember that children shouldn't bring toys and personal items in to school. We're noticing that increasing numbers of children are bringing toys and other items in to school and unfortunately, we can't store them safely. Please remind your child that the safest place for these precious items is at home.

Home Reading Reminder

Please remember the value that reading at home can add. Your child should bring a reading book home with them each day, if you find this isn't the case please see your child's class teacher and they'll be more than happy to help.



The value of team work has definitely shone at Castleway this week. Huge thank you to each and everyone of you for your support and flexibility with our changes to drop off and pick up this week. I would also like to thank all staff who have gone over and above this week. We couldn't have stayed open without them!

As always, this is just a snapshot of what has happened at Castleway this week and of the exciting things to come too. Have a lovely weekend, hopefully somewhere warm, and we'll see you all on Monday at the usual times.

Kind regards,

Mr. S. Mycroft – Headteacher



Dates for your Diary – 2025

Please see our initial plans for 2025 below. As always, there will be more to come!

When?	What?	Who?
14/01/25	Campfire Stories – Years 3 & 4 – 4:15 – 4:45pm	Year 3 & 4 children
14/01/25	Campfire Stories – Years 5 & 6 – 4:45 – 5:15pm	Year 3 & 4 children
16/01/25	'A Taste of the Wild West' – Special Themed Lunch	All children & staff
17/01/25	Whole School Trip to the Zoo	F2 – Year 6
22/01/25	Reading Café – Year 3 – 2:45pm	Year 3 children and families
29/01/25	Reading Café – Year 3 – 2:45pm	Year 3 children and families
05/02/25	Reading Café – Year 3 – 2:45pm	Year 3 children and families
10/02/25	EYFS Cool to be Kind Theme Day <i>Non-uniform day for Nursery School and F2</i>	Nursery School & F2 children
10/02/25	Valentine's Disco – Years 1 – 6 (during school day) <i>Uniform as normal. Bring party clothes to change in to.</i>	Years 1 – 6 children
12/02/25	Reading Café – Year 3 – 2:45pm	Year 3 children and families
14/02/25	Close for February Half Term at usual times	All children, families and staff
24/02/25	Back to School at the usual times	All children, families and staff
24/02/25	Our swimming pool returns! Details to follow in due course.	F2 – Y6
02/03/25	Years 4 & 5 Residential Visit (02/03/24 – 05/03/24)	Year 4 & 5 children
06/03/25	World Book Day – Details to follow in due course.	All children, families and staff
06/03/25	World Book Day – Special Themed Lunch	All children & staff
19/03/25	Spring Term Parents' Evening – 3:30 – 6:30pm <i>Booking to be available on School Spider soon.</i>	All families
19/03/25	Spring Term Parents' Evening – 3:30 – 5:00pm <i>Booking to be available on School Spider soon.</i>	All families

