

# Castleton CofE Primary School



6th January, 2026

## Newsletter

### ☀️ Happy New Year – Welcome to 2026!

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome back to a brand-new year at school! We hope you all enjoyed a restful break and are ready for an exciting Spring term ahead. We are very much looking forward to lots of engaging learning, new experiences and opportunities for the children during the coming weeks.

### 🌍 Our spring term theme: Social Justice

This term, our whole school learning theme is Social Justice. Through stories, discussions and curriculum activities, children will explore fairness, equality, and how we can make positive contributions to our community and the wider world.

### 😊 Launching our SMILERS initiative

We are also delighted to launch our whole-school SMILERS initiative – a Devon County Council project designed to support and strengthen pupils' wellbeing and emotional health. Throughout the term, children will engage in activities and routines that promote the SMILERS key principles to help them feel safe, happy, connected and confident.

### 🗣️ Amplifying pupil voice

We're proud to continue offering a range of leadership opportunities that help children develop confidence and a strong sense of responsibility. This term, pupils will be able to take part in:

- Pupil Parliament
- Health Champions
- Playground Buddies

These groups give children meaningful ways to share ideas, make improvements, and support one another across the school.

## Upcoming Events

### January

- 5<sup>th</sup> - INSET
- 6<sup>th</sup> - Spring 1 begins
- 13<sup>th</sup> - Health Champions -New Mills (pm)
- 15<sup>th</sup> - KS2 Tree planting in Overdale
- 22<sup>nd</sup> - KS2 Athletics at HVC 1.30-3pm

### February

- 5<sup>th</sup> - Puppet led collective worship
- 9<sup>th</sup> - FGBM 6pm
- 10<sup>th</sup> - Safer Internet Day
- 11<sup>th</sup> - Primary retreat day (Y5/6)
- 13<sup>th</sup> - End of Spring 1
- 23<sup>rd</sup> - Spring 2 begins

### March

- 5<sup>th</sup> - World Book Day / reading Adventure Day (poetry)
- 12<sup>th</sup> - KS2 Hockey Festival at HVC 1.30-3pm
- 19<sup>th</sup> - KS2 HVC Netball 1.30-3pm
- 19<sup>th</sup> - Parent consultations
- 24<sup>th</sup> - Health Champions -New Mills (pm)
- 27<sup>th</sup> - Break for Easter

*Please also keep an eye on the school website calendar as events are added throughout the term/may be subject to change.*

👏 **A warm welcome to our new Foundation Governor**

We are delighted to welcome Louise Petherham to our Governing Body as our new Foundation Governor. Many of you will already know Louise from our lovely family church services and her regular visits into school. We are very grateful for the experience, warmth and community spirit she brings to the role.

💛 **Thank You**

Finally, we would like to thank you for your continued support and for working in partnership with the school. Your involvement makes a real difference, and we truly value everything you do to help our school community thrive.



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