November 2026

Castleton CofE Primary School NEWSLETTER



WELCOME BACK - AUTUMN TERM 2

A very warm welcome back to all of our children, families and staff as we begin the second half of the autumn term. We hope everyone enjoyed a restful half-term break and is ready for what is always one of the busiest and most exciting terms of the school year.

With curriculum projects, enrichment opportunities, community events and Christmas celebrations on the horizon, there is certainly lots to look forward to. Before looking ahead to the term, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to all our families for their understanding and support during the recent boiler breakdown.

Closing the school is always a last resort, and we explored every possible option to keep the school open and minimise disruption to children's learning. The kindness, patience and cooperation shown by parents during a very challenging situation was greatly appreciated. Your support was invaluable, and we are incredibly fortunate to have such a supportive school community.

HELLOS

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Kate Waddington to our EYFS team this term.

We are also pleased to welcome Millie Agutter, a trainee teacher from the University of Derby who will be working alongside the team in Badgers Class.

We know both will enjoy becoming part of our school community and supporting our children in their learning.

KEEPING UP TO DATE

Please keep a close eye on our school website and Parent Hub throughout the term for information about upcoming events, key dates and all the exciting learning and activities taking place across the school.

We work hard to plan and publish dates as far in advance as possible and always aim to adhere to our published calendar. However, on occasion, events may need to be amended due to circumstances beyond our control. Should any changes be necessary, we will communicate these with families as soon as possible through our usual channels.

GLOBAL THEME: PEACE AND CONFLICT

Our whole-school global theme this term is Peace and Conflict. Through this topic, children will explore how people interact with one another, from friendships and family relationships through to communities, countries and the wider world. The theme provides valuable opportunities to develop children's understanding of empathy, cooperation, fairness and peaceful problem-solving.

Learning will include:

- Understanding what peace means to us personally and how we can create calm, safe environments where everyone can thrive.
- Recognising and managing emotions such as frustration, disappointment and anger in positive ways.
- Developing empathy by considering different viewpoints and appreciating how experiences can shape people's thoughts and feelings.
- Learning effective communication skills, including active listening and respectful discussion.
- Exploring how conflicts arise and discovering constructive ways to resolve disagreements.
- Working collaboratively to find solutions, compromise and build positive relationships.
- Investigating historical and contemporary examples of conflict and considering their impact on communities.
- Learning about humanitarian values, kindness and how small actions can contribute to a more peaceful and just world.
- Developing critical thinking skills to help children question information thoughtfully and understand different perspectives.

This theme links closely to our school values and will encourage children to reflect on how they can be peacemakers both within our school community and beyond. Through their learning, pupils will develop the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to build positive relationships, respect diversity and contribute positively to society.

Christian Value Focus: Forgiveness

Our Christian value this term is Forgiveness. Through Collective Worship, RE lessons and everyday school life, children will explore how forgiveness can help restore relationships, resolve conflict and promote peace. Children will learn through Bible stories and the teachings of Jesus, reflecting on the importance of saying sorry, accepting forgiveness and showing grace to others. Staff will model restorative approaches, encourage respectful communication and celebrate examples of kindness, empathy and reconciliation across the school. As our global theme is Peace and Conflict, this value will help children understand how they can become peacemakers in their own relationships and communities.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November
2nd : Autumn Term 2 begins
5th : Parent & pupil Christmas decoration making workshops 2.15pm
10th : Visit from Diocese Director of Education
10th : Bright Bites teeth health session 2.30pm
12th : Reading Adventure Day
14th : Castleton Lights switch on / Christmas Fair
17th : Health Champions at New Mills
23th : Science Week
24th : Clubercise 1-3pm

December
2nd : Christmas lunch
2nd : Puppet Collective Worship
3rd : DT Day
3rd : Parent Consultations
9th : Chocolate Nativity
16th : Christmas party lunch
16th : School Nativity (2pm)
17th : Christmas parties
17th : Christingle Service at St Edmund's 2pm
17th : End of Autumn Term 2
18th : INSET

January
4th : INSET
5th : Spring Term 1 begins

We are looking forward to an exciting and productive half term and thank you, as always, for your continued support of our school. Together, we can ensure that every child continues to flourish and truly lets their light shine. ✨