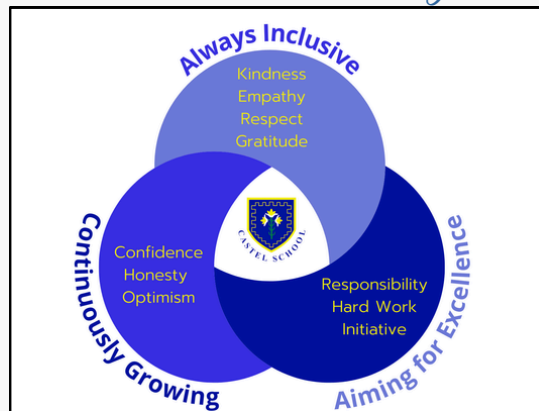


CASTEL CATCH-UP

The Newsletter for the Castel Primary School Community



December's Value of the Month: Kindness

Headteacher's Message

by Mr P. Curtis

As we race towards Christmas, I just wanted to say a big thank you for all your support over the last term. We have welcomed a new cohort in to Reception and it has been great seeing them grow, develop and settle in to school life. Our older pupils also continue to thrive well and grow.

As I have said many times before, educating children is done most effectively when school and home work together. This includes reinforcing the same messages about behaviour, standards and work ethic to the children. We do our best to keep you as parents/carers fully informed about how well your children are doing as well as times when things may not have gone so well.

We know that we do not always get everything right and we are always welcoming to constructive feedback. As our motto states, we are 'continuously growing' and 'aiming for excellence' and our partnership with you is central to that. We look forward to working with your children, and with you, in 2026!

Wishing you all a restful and relaxing Christmas with your loved ones.

With best regards,

Mr Curtis

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE?

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

BREAKFAST CLUB

ACTIVE TRAVEL

CHRISTMAS THANKS

Christmas Thanks

Our shows the week before last, along with our parties this week, have been a resounding success. We very much appreciate your support in coming along to watch the shows as the pupils really do enjoy performing to an audience.

Parties have gone well and, although the noise and excitement of a Christmas party can be a lot for some children to manage, our staff have worked hard to make sure that all children can enjoy events as much as possible.

On that note, I would like to extend a thank you to all staff who have worked so hard since September. A 15-week term is a long stretch to get through but their fantastic effort, energy and commitment is much appreciated by both myself and Mrs Dawber.



Breakfast Club

We have now run our Breakfast Club for a full term and, from the feedback we have had, it seems to have been a positive addition to our provision.

It has been great to see the pupils coming in happily and parents/carers report it has given their children a more settled and consistent start to the day.

We have capacity to accommodate more pupils so if this is something that would be useful to you, please contact the office on 227368. You can use it as many days a week as you wish.

Christmas Fayre

I am delighted to share that the Christmas Fayre this year raised a grand total of **£2864**.

That is an incredible amount and I am very grateful to the PTA for organising the event. It takes a lot of time and effort in the months preceding a fayre to make sure it all runs smoothly. As a school, we are very lucky to have the PTA and all they provide for us.

If you would like to get involved with the PTA in way, please email castelpta@gmail.com.

Christmas Meltdowns

I recently saw this article on BBC News and thought it may be useful to share. Christmas can be a challenging time for many children with greater excitement, loss of routine, tiredness and high emotions. We have certainly seen the effects of that in school. It may be an interesting and a useful read:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c3v1n95p31go>



Active Travel

I recently sent out a poll regarding views on a possible 'School Street' route from the park up Rue de la Generotte. The results of this survey were shared on Class Dojo earlier this week.

Some parents also expressed additional views on Class Dojo. Some views were those of concern regarding the safety of the crossing point near the park, some saying the school was not going far enough in relation to Active Travel and some views in relation to other roads around school.

I had another meeting with Traffic and Highways this week. Within that meeting, we discussed the possibility of a trial period of Rue de la Generotte becoming a school street in the first part of the summer term. We also discussed the concerns regarding the safety of the crossing point. Traffic and Highways stated that works such as adjusting wall heights for better visibility, creating a raised crossing 'table'/speed bumps, additional lighting etc would be very unlikely to happen. Additional signage would be feasible but not much more. This is due to the possibility of proposed works at the main Mont D'Aval junction just further up the road and the nature of plans being approved from a very long infrastructure list. Speed bumps/raised tables are often problematic for blue light services when responding to emergencies and are therefore not always considered practicable. Despite what may be thought, as a Head I have no control or jurisdiction over the roads around school and the wheels of change often turn very slowly in Guernsey!

I will keep you posted about any further developments in this area.