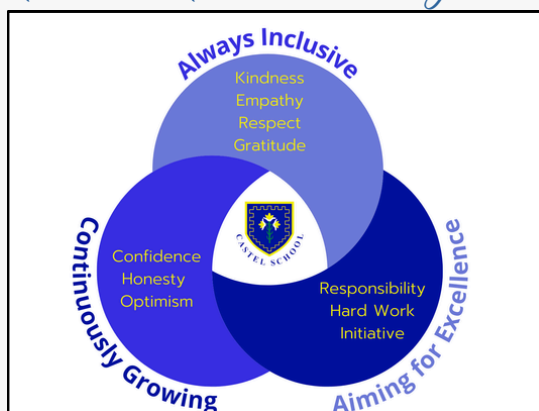


CASTEL CATCH-UP

The Newsletter for the Castel Primary School Community



January's Value of the Month: Gratitude

Headteacher's Message

by Mr P. Curtis

As a school, we firmly believe that the most successful outcomes for children are achieved when parents/carers and school work in genuine partnership. This is one reason why we are currently running parent workshops around behaviour and resilience. When children see the important adults in their lives working together, it sends a powerful message about shared expectations, mutual respect and trust. Strong, positive relationships between home and school help children feel secure, valued and supported, enabling them to flourish both academically and socially.

Equally important is ensuring that our pupils understand that choices matter and that actions, whether positive or negative, always have consequences. This understanding is not about punishment, but about learning responsibility, resilience and accountability. When children consistently receive the same messages at home and at school, they develop a stronger sense of right and wrong and are better equipped to make positive decisions.

By communicating openly, supporting one another and modelling respectful behaviour, we help our children learn that challenge and consequence are a natural part of learning and growth. Every child is encouraged to take responsibility for their behaviour whilst feeling confident that they are supported every step of the way.

Mr Curtis

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE?

HEADTEACHER'S
MESSAGE

RESIDENTIALS

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Residentials

Planning continues at pace for the residentials we are offering this year. Year 4 are heading to Fauxquets Valley; Year 5 to Herm and Year 6 to Jersey.

These trips offer a fantastic opportunity to have fun, develop resilience and independence and for staff and pupils to spend time together in a slightly more relaxed environment than school can offer.

In addition to this, we also need to know that pupils can be trusted to follow instructions and act in a manner that will keep all people on the trip safe. My mantra to the pupils is very simple: *show us we can trust you in school so that we are confident we can trust you out of school.* We need to know that when pupils are out in public on residentials, near busy roads, on cliff paths, in and around the sea, in town centres etc, that they will be able to follow instructions and make good decisions.

LSA Opportunity

We are currently advertising for an LSA to join our team on a fixed-term contract until the summer. If this may be of interest to you, please do get in touch or check the States job website for further details.

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.

School Discos

School discos are approaching - the date for this PTA event is **Friday 6th February**. Key Stage One will be from 5:00pm - 6:00pm. Key Stage Two will be from 6:15pm - 7:30pm.

Please contact the school office on 227368 if you have any questions.

Active Travel - Update

I recently met with our new Active Travel Group made up of around twenty pupils. It was our inaugural meeting but one that highlighted how important the voice of the pupils can be. I am contacted regularly by parents/carers about cars, parking or the traffic in general but it was a fascinating insight into what pupils at the schools think.

Most striking was when, towards the end of the meeting, I asked the following questions:

Raise your hand if you have experienced/seen drivers getting angry?

Raise your hand if you have seen drivers do something dangerous?

Eleven out of eighteen pupils (61%) said they had experienced/seen drivers getting angry.

Sixteen out of eighteen pupils (89%) said they had seen drivers do something dangerous.

To be honest, I found this staggering and quite eye-opening. There was also an overwhelmingly negative view of having to end PE lessons early to accommodate turning the playground into a car park. To be honest, I did not get into teaching to manage traffic and car-parking but I do care about the experiences and views of the pupils at my school.

As a result of this meeting, this issue has rocketed up my list of priorities. I will be consulting pupils and staff further, discussing the matter with SLT and hoping to make changes sooner rather than later. It was also interesting to note how much smoother the traffic flowed when Rue de la Masse was closed/one way just after Storm Gorette.

Everyone will have a part to play in this, including you. In response to an angry parent last week who was complaining to me that they couldn't drive away from school as quickly as they wanted to, I pointed out that if you are sat in a car outside of school, you are not stuck in the traffic, you are the traffic. Everyone needs to try and be part of the solution.

Can I suggest that everyone starts looking into the viability of different options of getting to and from school? This may include car-shares, walking, bikes or alternating transport arrangements with other parents. Every little effort will help make this situation better for our pupils.

I will be back in touch in the near future with a further update on this issue.