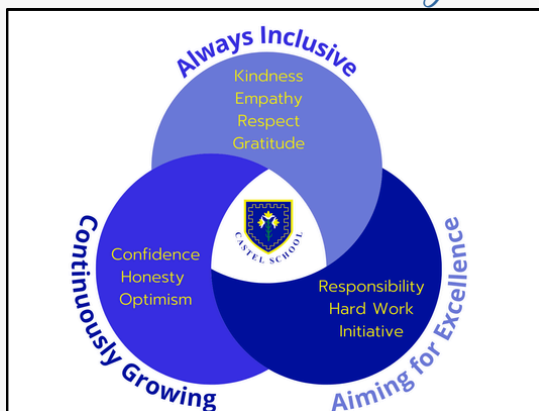


CASTEL CATCH-UP

The Newsletter for the Castel Primary School Community



September’s Value of the Month: Responsibility

Headteacher's Message

by Mr P. Curtis

A very warm welcome back to the new school year! I sincerely hope that you had a great summer break and, however you spent the school holiday, both you and your children managed to find some time to rest, relax and spend some quality time together.

During the two inset days, staff have been working on a variety of professional development areas. These have included a whole school update to our teaching of spelling, level two safeguarding training and a review of our summative data results from the last academic year, which were collated over the summer.

We are delighted to welcome several new faces to the Castel community. We look forward to getting to know you over the next few weeks. I understand that the return to school may bring anxiety for some pupils. My advice would be to remain positive and upbeat about the new school year, acknowledge these feelings are valid and remind children that it’s OK to feel nervous. We are very much looking forward to welcoming the children back to school and are confident that the new school year will be an exciting and positive time!

With best regards,
Mr Curtis

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE?

HEADTEACHER'S
MESSAGE

STAFFING UPDATE

WEEKLY DIARY

BEHAVIOUR

Weekly Diary

Mrs Pipet and Mrs Le Tissier will continue to send out the school weekly diary throughout this year. Please do make every effort to refer to this diary when it comes out on Class Dojo. It is a quick and easy way to keep up to date with what is going on in school each week.

The Education Strategy

Please see below for this month's information on our work towards the Education Strategy:

Area: High quality learning and excellent outcomes.

Aim: Supporting and developing a highly skilled education workforce.

School Action:

This year, we will be continuing to focus on implementing High Quality Inclusive Practices to ensure all pupils can access our curriculum effectively. We are also updating and developing our teaching of spelling to ensure that it is more rigorous, systematic and robust.

Congratulations!

One of our LSAs, Alicia Carter, happily got married over the summer break. Congratulations to her and her husband - she has now become Mrs Taylor!

Staffing Update

Please find below a brief reminder of where the teachers are based for this academic year:

Reception: Miss Wherry (*Miss Conchar on Fridays*) and Mrs Bougourd

Year One: Mrs Garland

Year Two: Mrs Brogan and Miss Livingstone

Year Three: Mrs Birsen/Miss Martin and Miss Quevatre

Year Four: Mr Strappini and Mrs Bazzaz

Year Five: Mrs Maltby and Mrs Cochrane (*Mrs Curtis on Wednesdays*)

Year Six: Miss Maddern and Mrs Moore (*Mrs Curtis on Mondays*)

PPA Staff: Mrs Sangan, Mrs Curtis, Mrs Leete

Year Group Termly Newsletters

Each year group will be sending out their termly newsletter by the end of the first week back. If you have any questions having read it, please refer to your child's class teacher in the first instance.

Rights Respecting Gold Award

I am delighted to share that, towards the end of last academic year, Castel was awarded its Gold Rights Respecting School Award.

It was a thorough process led by an external assessor but one which validated our continued work to raise the profile and embed our work around children's rights. The assessor spoke to pupils, staff and parents/carers from across the school. Some highlights from the report include:

"Rights are woven throughout the curriculum meaning they are regularly discussed..."

"Staff are passionate advocates of children's rights."

"Social and emotional wellbeing is a priority and pupils learn to develop healthy lifestyles."

"Pupils value their education and are involved in making decisions about their learning."

"Pupils agreed that they are treated fairly by adults and demonstrated a good understanding of the concepts of equality and equity."

Mrs Dawber, along with the Rights Respecting Ambassadors, led this work and it is an achievement of which we should be proud. Big thanks to them for all their hard work.

We will continue our work to raise awareness of children's rights and ensure that pupils at Castel are aware of their rights and those of children across the world.

Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club is now up and running. It operates from 7:30am until 8:30am each day. We offer a range of cereals, toast and fruit along with either water or milk to drink. Once breakfast has finished, there is a range of quiet activities and board games for the children to take part in.

If you would like to register your child/ren for this, please contact the school office on 227368 or CAP.office@education.gg.

Parent Forum

The first Parent Forum of the year will be held on Wednesday 8th October at 2:00pm.

This will be an opportunity to raise, share or discuss any part of school life that you would like more information on or have questions about.

As we get this school year up and running, I am happy to take any questions at all that will help build and develop a mutual understanding of how we can make Castel Primary the best school possible.

I look forward to seeing you there!

School Behaviour

Starting a new school year is the perfect opportunity to review, remind, and reset our community's standards of behaviour.

Overall, the behaviour of our students is excellent. Visitors frequently compliment us on the calm, orderly, and friendly atmosphere of the school. This is not by chance, but the result of clear and consistent routines. As a parent or guardian, your role is crucial in upholding these standards.

Occasionally, I do have to manage situations where a parent or carer finds it difficult to believe their child could have been in the wrong. This can make a situation much more difficult to resolve. Over the summer, I came across a paragraph that speaks to this issue. It is a little blunt in places but the nature of the message is, I believe, important:

Your refusal to believe that your child is capable of doing anything wrong is the very thing that will guarantee they do. Imagine the scene: the teacher calls home with a concern; another parent tells you your child was unkind; your child comes home with a story where they are the perfect victim; and you believe them, every single time. Let's stop pretending: you are not 'advocating' for your child. You are becoming their accomplice.

You are teaching them a very dangerous lesson. "You are never accountable. The rules don't apply to you. Someone else is always to blame for your problems."

You are not raising a confident child, you are raising one who believes they are never responsible for their actions. A child who is incapable of self-reflection will be an adult who crumbles at the first sign of real-world accountability.

Your job is not to be your child's lawyer. It is to be their moral guide. Sometimes, the greatest act of love is to look at a child and say "I love you, but you were wrong. This is on you."

When we work to resolve behavioural issues, we follow a clear process. All students involved give their version of events, we seek clarification from witnesses if needed, we reach an agreement on each person's role in what happened, and then we give apologies and consequences where necessary. This "investigate, clarify, agree, and resolve" approach is a robust way to manage conflict. Your support in this process is extremely important and always very much appreciated.

If you would like to discuss this further, then please do not hesitate to get in touch.