

# CASTEL CATCH-UP

*The Newsletter for the Castel Primary School Community*



## February's Value of the Month: Empathy

### Headteacher's Message

*by Mr P. Curtis*

As we approach February half-term and approximately the halfway point of the academic year, it seems a good time to reflect on what has been achieved so far. Both the staff team and pupils have worked hard to establish secure routines, develop academic standards and keep us moving forward as a school. Pupils will have been pushed and encouraged to take on work and challenges that, at the outset, they probably thought they could not achieve. Pupils have attended a vast range of extra-curricular clubs and many will have represented the school at sport. We have covered off and discussed six of our school values with four left to go.

The second half of the year will bring more academic work with GL assessments to help gauge our progress. Sports opportunities will continue at pace as will extra-curricular clubs. Residential for our older pupils are on the horizon as well.

The life of a primary school is hectic, challenging, diverse and never dull. We encourage our pupils to make the most of every opportunity that comes their way. Onwards and upwards to the second half of the year!

With best regards,  
Mr Curtis

#### WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE?

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HEADTEACHER'S  
MESSAGE

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DISCOS

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READING  
COMPETITION

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SPORTS RESULTS

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## PTA Disco

A huge thank you to those who came and supported the PTA discos recently. **£1,124.69** was raised which is a fantastic effort.

A special thank you goes to DJ Leon who has worked our discos for several years now, but sadly, this was his last one with us. Big thanks for all your time, DJ Leon!



## Netball Results

Very well done to our netballers who recently played the following games:

### 'A' Team

Castel 3 - 0 St Martin's

Castel 5 - 2 Vale

### 'B' Team

Castel 4 - 0 St Martin's

Castel 1 - 0 Vale

## Reading Competition

Well done to the following classes who won the inaugural class reading competition:

Infants: 2L

Lower KS2: 4B

Upper KS2: 5B

## Leading From The Front

A special mention to our Key Stage One leader, Mrs Bougourd, who recently captained Guernsey's Women's Football team in their first ever home game. A significant achievement and one that sets a great example to our pupils.



## Football Results

A big well done to our Year 4 footballers who recently played the following games:

Castel 0 - 2 Notre Dame

Castel 1- 0 Hautes Capelles

Castel 3 - 0 Blanchelande



## The Education Strategy

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

**Area:** Outstanding Leadership and Governance

**Aim:** Developing education governance systems.

### **School Action:**

As you may have read in the media, the States of Deliberation recently approved the establishment of new governance boards. Our next Interim Governance Board meeting is in May and, at this meeting, we will have in attendance our new parent, community and staff representatives.

These governance boards play an important part in holding the school, and myself as Head, to account for the decisions taken, the money spent and the results achieved.

## Residentials - Reminder

This year's residentials have now been finalised. Please see below for the key dates. As always, a big thanks to the staff who organise and run these trips - it is no small job but one that all the pupils benefit hugely from.

**Year 4 - Lihou Island** - Wednesday 11th - Friday 13th June

**Year 5 - Fauxquets Valley** - Wednesday 21st - Friday 23rd May

**Year 6 - Jersey** - Tuesday 1st - Friday 4th July

As always, we believe that no child should miss out due to financial constraints so, if any support is needed, please contact Mr Curtis in confidence.

## The Big Castel Clothes Swap

From Monday 17th Feb, we will be collecting good quality, second hand children's clothes for The Big Castel Clothes Swap. Please bring to the front office between Monday 17th and Wednesday 19th if you have any donations.

The event itself will be between 2:30pm and 3:10pm on Wednesday 19th Feb in the school hall. **All items will be free of charge.**

## A Time for Reflection...

I'd like you to imagine, if I may, a situation where you have been asked to run a training course for a group of people. There are between 25-30 participants and the course has to last for around five hours. You will be directly accountable for the progress and attainment of the course attendees. You must maintain positive relationships with the participants as you will be doing another course with them again tomorrow.

Several of the participants you have to train do not want to be there and are determined not to engage. Five others say they don't understand it and the content is too challenging; four participants say it's too easy and they want something else to do.

Three of them slept very poorly the night before as they stayed up late on social media. This has made them tired and highly irritable. Another two participants had an argument in the car park before the course started and are determined to carry it on now. They just will not stop making sarcastic comments and attempting to goad the other. Another participant's car broke down on the way to the course and he is stressed about getting it fixed.

As you get the course up and running, two participants say they feel ill and that they need to go home. You suspect they may be trying it on to get out of the course but you can't be sure. As you ponder this, another participant bursts into tears as a close family relative passed away two nights ago. You take a deep breath and consider the fact that you are ten minutes in to a five hour day...

This scenario, or one very close to it, is the role of a class teacher everyday. It is a unique challenge and one that can't be under-estimated.

At Castel Primary School, our teachers are dedicated professionals who genuinely care for the well-being and development of each pupil. It is important to understand that they do not wish to reprimand children; rather, their primary goal is to foster an atmosphere that is both positive and conducive to learning. When behavioural issues arise, it not only creates additional workload for our teachers but also detracts from valuable teaching time that could be better spent on educational activities. In short, it is a part of the job they would rather not have to do!

To ensure a collaborative and effective approach, I kindly ask for your support when teachers reach out to you regarding any behavioural concerns involving your child. They are motivated by a desire to see your child thrive and succeed, and your partnership in addressing these matters is vital.

In summary, your support in reinforcing positive behaviour at home will greatly assist our teachers in maintaining an environment where all pupils can learn effectively.