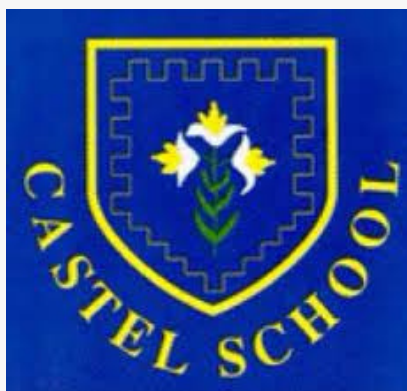


# CASTEL CATCH-UP

The Newsletter for the Castel Primary School Community



## January's Value of the Month: Gratitude

### Headteacher's Message

by Mr P. Curtis

2024 was certainly a busy year in school and 2025 promises to be no less hectic. Planning for the rest of this academic year is complete and thoughts are already turning to the next academic year.

As always, our key driver is the school's vision document. Everything we do in school is building towards achieving that vision. As a staff, we have recently reviewed the document and updated it slightly. We have also added in a new ethos statement that binds all our ten values together. It succinctly outlines the sort of school we hope to be if everyone in our school community lives out the ten values. The statement is *"Always inclusive, aiming for excellence, continuously growing"*. Further information on this ethos statement is on the page below.

Mrs Dawber sent out a poster last week regarding the importance of reading. I echo this message and strongly encourage you to make reading a key part of your child's homelife. The ability to read becomes increasingly important as children get older and is the most important thing when determining future success. Your support and partnership in enabling our pupils to become confident, proficient readers is hugely valuable and very much appreciated!

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

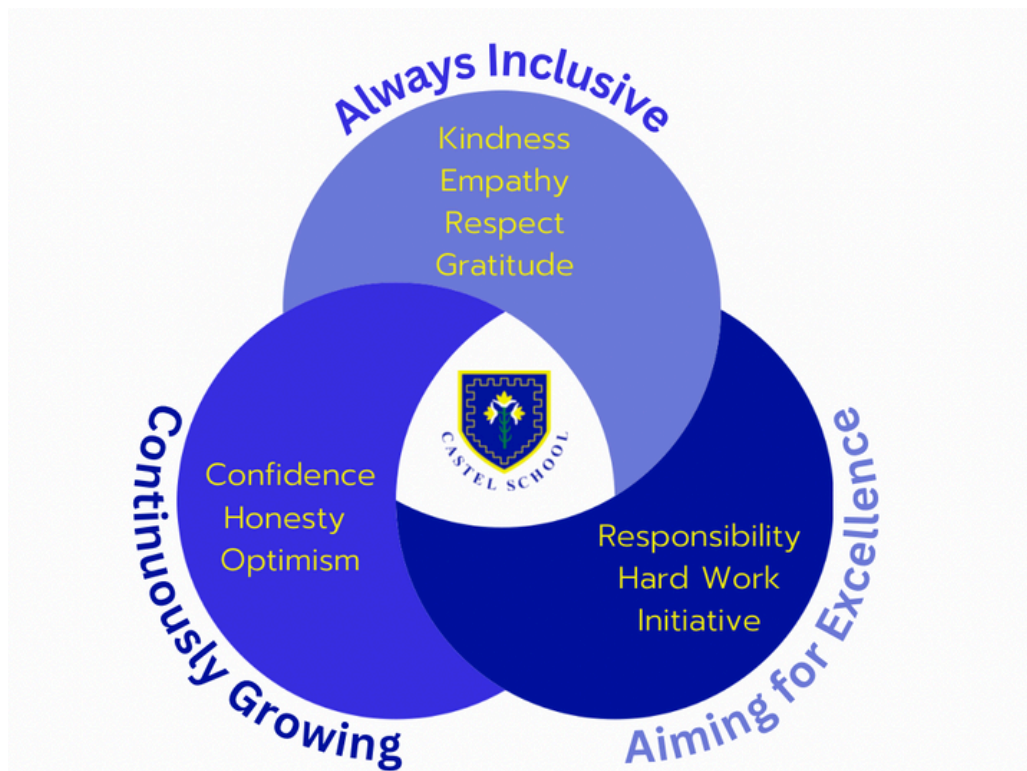
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VISION UPDATE

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## School Vision Update

As mentioned above, we have added an ethos statement to our school vision document. This ethos statement is a succinct way of communicating what we aim to achieve and personify at Castel Primary. It fits in with our ten Castel values which all contribute towards one of these three key areas. As Head, I wish our school to welcome children of all abilities, backgrounds and levels of need; I am also aiming for excellence in all that we do whether that be academic, sporting, musical or behavioural and, finally, whatever level we are currently working or performing at, I believe we should always be aiming for better and seeking to improve and develop our skills, talents and abilities. If we all work hard to exemplify our ten values, I am confident that we will meet those standards. If you have any thoughts or feedback then, as always, I am more than happy to listen!



## PTA Disco

There are both Junior and Infant discos on Friday 7th February. The infant disco will be from 5:00pm - 6:00pm; the junior disco from 6:15pm - 7:30pm. Ticket information from the PTA has already been sent home.

## Reading Competition

Mrs Dawber, as Literacy Leader, has started a class reading competition. Please check Class Dojo for full details of this initiative! A trophy and prizes are up for grabs! If you as adults need a new book, don't forget the bookshelf just inside the school front door. Any books are free to take!

# 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:** Developing Our Curriculum In Line With Best Practice

## **School Action:**

Along with safeguarding, our curriculum is at the heart of everything we do at school. Because of this, we are constantly looking to improve, develop and refine what we offer our pupils.

Our subject leaders regularly attend centralised training on subject leadership and work with colleagues from other schools to share and develop good practice.

As a Senior Leadership Team, we feel it is important to grow and develop our middle leaders so they have the skills, knowledge and opportunities to grow and develop their careers if they wish to do so.

# Residentials

This year's residentials have now been finalised. Please see below for the key dates. As always, a big thanks to the staff who run and supervise 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. We always seek to keep the costs of these trips as low as possible and the school does not make any profit at all from them - in some cases, they often run at a small loss. However, with the costs of transport, food and leisure activities all ever-increasing, we appreciate that it can be a challenge to fund these residentials. That is why we are keen to work with families to make them as accessible as possible.

# Online Gaming Event

**ACE Invaders** is a free gaming and online safety event for children and young people that aims to bring together digital and gaming enthusiasts in Guernsey, with a focus on helping the next generation of users to explore the wonders of the digital world safely. Taking place at **Beau Sejour Leisure Centre on Saturday 15 February from 12 - 5pm**, the event will feature live gaming competitions, prizes, interactive stands and activities.

With a mix of activities, competitions, and hands-on learning about online safety, this event is also a platform for local businesses to connect with families and young people in the community. The goal is to promote digital literacy, community engagement, and inclusion among participants during a day of learning, and community building.

Designed for primary and secondary-age children and young people, the annual event provided guidance on online safety as well as showcasing the areas in which digital touches lives in a positive way. There will also be a passport competition, where children can enter a draw to win a Nintendo Switch if they successfully fill up their 'passport' with stamps by engaging with the various stands. Other prizes will also be up for grabs

"The highly successful event Digital ACE has joined forces with the island's gaming communities to bring you ACE Invaders – the island's most exciting gaming, tech, and online safety event of the year," said founder Matthew Parker. "This isn't just about playing games; it's about creating a smarter, safer, and more connected digital community. From cutting-edge technology showcases to interactive gaming experiences and vital lessons in online safety, this event has something for everyone. Together, we're redefining the way we engage with technology, ensuring that fun and safety go hand in hand. Join us and be part of the movement that's shaping the future of gaming and tech on our shores!"

"As a gaming fan myself, I don't want anything to take away from that immersive and joyful experience, and we are looking forward to sharing key tips to ensure your gaming is both safe and exciting!" said Bailiwick Data Protection Commissioner Brent Homan. The event is truly a community effort, run by volunteers and with the venue provided free of charge by the States of Guernsey.