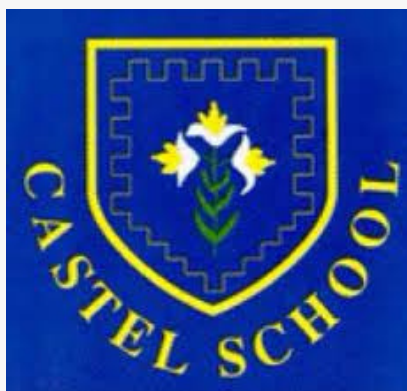


CASTEL CATCH-UP

The Newsletter for the Castel Primary School Community



December's Value of the Month: Kindness

Headteacher's Message

by Mr P. Curtis

As I write, I can hear the tuneful sounds of Christmas carols and songs echo around the building. It is a wonderful time in school with lots of festive activities going on. However, it is also a time of year in which many children struggle with over-tiredness, lack of normal routine and possible anxiety about the forthcoming Christmas break. We always manage these situations as sensitively as we can - if you feel your child may be struggling, please do keep us informed so we can react accordingly in school.

Next week, we have our Christmas performances which are always something to look forward to seeing. We also have our Christmas carol concerts at St Matthew's. The week beginning Monday 16th December, it is party days! Please keep an eye out on Class Dojo for information about this from your child's class teacher.

Wishing you all a happy and enjoyable run up to Christmas and we look forward to seeing you next week at some of the performances!

With best regards,
Mr Curtis

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE?

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

SPORTS RESULTS

CAROL SERVICES

OFSTED INSPECTION

Ofsted Inspection

As you will be aware, we had an inspection by the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) during the week of 18th November. A team of three inspectors were with us for two days going through every aspect of school life and what we deliver to our pupils here. They observed lessons, spoke to a wide range of staff and pupils, looked at books and work, listened to pupils read as well as a variety of other meetings linked to behaviour, attendance and safeguarding. Pupil, parent and staff surveys were also conducted. Ofsted will grade us in *Quality of Education, Behaviour and Attitudes, Personal Development and Welfare, Leadership and Management and Early Years*.

We are still awaiting the report from Ofsted but, in the meantime, I would like to say a huge thank you to all the staff and pupils for how they conducted themselves during the inspection. They represented the school superbly and allowed inspectors to see what Castel Primary is truly like. Whatever the outcome of the inspection, it made me exceptionally proud to lead this school and to showcase what we do.

I will share the final report with you as soon as I am able to do so.

PTA Christmas Fayre

A huge thank you for to all those who attended our Christmas Fayre last Friday. It was a lovely event with a very festive atmosphere!

As I am sure you can imagine, it takes a lot of organisation to get this sort of event up and running and the planning and preparation starts months in advance. So big thanks go to the PTA, especially Katie Powis and Nadine Gavey who led the event this year.

I am delighted to share that we raised **£2,693.91** which is an incredible amount. This will go towards additional resourcing for the school and will have a direct and positive impact on the pupils.

Further events for next term are already being planned. please keep you eye on Class Dojo and WhatsApp for further information in the new year.

Charity Run

On Friday 6th December, I will be running laps of the sports field all day in aid of the charity *Children First* and also as part of my training for the London Marathon next year.

Any donations would be hugely appreciated - they are an amazing charity who work with children who have had a very difficult start to their lives. My fund raising link can be found here:

<https://2025tcs londonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/pete-curtis>

The Education Strategy

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

Area: Outstanding Leadership & Governance

Aim: Developing a shared culture of trust, honesty, open communication and reflection.

School Action:

Throughout our Ofsted inspection, and also in the build-up to it, I explained to the school's middle and senior leaders that the inspection was not about trying to paint a picture of perfection of our school, but about being open and honest about where we are on our journey, what we feel we do well and what we are aiming to improve. My belief is that Castel is a good school that has many areas of strength, with a range of things that we do really well. There are also areas, however, that we need to focus on and develop our practice in. As a school, we need to be aware of these things and have a plan in place that will improve these things over time.

The inspection process was very useful as it allowed external eyes on all areas of school provision. This will, I am sure, lead to some useful feedback on how we can move forward and develop further in the future.

Sports Results

Please see below for information on the following matches and results:

Netball

Castel **3 - 1** La Mare De Carteret

Castel **0 - 7** Hautes Capelles

Castel **1 - 4** Vale

Very well done to all our pupils who took part in these matches.

All our sports results are regularly posted on our social media channels (Facebook and X)

Christmas Carol Services

Please find below a reminder of the information regarding our carol services next week.

Thursday 12th December: Infant Carol Service, St Matthew's, Cobo at 10:00am.

All of our infant pupils will gather for a short carol service - we also would love to see any parents/carers/grandparents etc of those pupils who wish to join us there as well.

Thursday 12th December: Community Carol Service, St Matthew's, Cobo at 6:30pm.

Any and all of our parent/carer/family community are welcome to join us for a service of readings and carols involving our choirs and some pupil readers.