



We are Castleway.

Be kind. Be confident. Be your best.



Friday, 25th November 2022

Dear Families,

It dawned on me this morning that we are now only one calendar month away from Christmas! This year has flown and I put that down to the old saying of 'time flies when you're having fun' and this week is no exception to that. As always, here's your Friday Update full of news and celebrations from both members of the Castleway Campus!

Kingswood Success

As you'll be aware, our Year 5 & 6 children returned safely from their residential visit to Kingswood this week. Having had the pleasure of joining them on the visit, I can confirm that they were everything you'd expect them to be. Our school motto shone as our children were kind, confident and did their utmost to be their best too! I'm one very proud Headteacher right now. There are lots of photos on the Primary School Facebook page so if you've not had a look yet, please do. There might even be a video of me pushing myself to follow in their example too...



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Parents' Evening

We were thrilled to welcome so many of you in to school yesterday to celebrate the amazing progress that our children are making. It was wonderful to hear so many positives being shared about the wonderful things our children are continuing to achieve. A new idea for us this year was to leave a 'positive post it' on your children's books for them to read. Safe to say, those children who were left a 'positive post it' loved reading them today! If you didn't get to leave a post it note and would like to, please speak to your child's class teacher.



Family Survey

Following an amazing Parents' Evening, we'd like to invite you to share some feedback with us. Hearing our corridors full of praise, positivity and passion for learning was simply incredible. Please visit this link to share your thoughts with us: <https://bit.ly/CastlewayFeedbackNovember2022>.



Proud to be part of
The Unity Federation



Open Evening – Come and see us!



We hope that any potential Castleway Primary families are able to join us for our Open Evening on Monday. We're throwing open the doors to our castle between 3:30 and 6:00pm on Monday for anyone who would like to have a look around. We would actively encourage any parents considering us for a place to come and visit during the day where possible as our school just doesn't feel the same without our wonderful children in it! Anyone wishing to make an application for Castleway Primary should do so via the Wirral Council Portal. The portal can be accessed here: <https://bit.ly/CastlewayApplications>. As we sing in assembly... Castleway's the place to be!

#CastleShop

Thanks to the amazing people at Neo Community, we've been able to offer our families the chance to fill up on essentials for free. Being able to support our families in this way at a time when everyone, no matter their job or circumstances, is finding things that bit more difficult is amazing. If you need anything, please just pop in to the main office and we'll show you to the 'CastleShop'. The only thing we ask is, please bring a couple of bags along with you!

Staff and Parent Governor Update



Following our recent nominations process, I'm delighted to confirm that Mrs. Sarah Eccles has been duly elected to serve as Parent Governor for The Unity Federation representing children from both Castleway Primary School & Castleway Nursery School. Mrs. Eccles is the proud mum of children from both of our schools so I'm really looking forward to working with her as both of our schools continue to grow, improve and shine at the heart of our community.

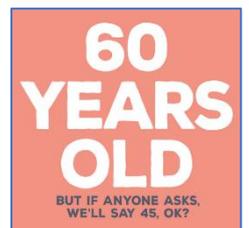
In other Governing Board related news, Miss McDonough has been duly elected to serve as Staff Governor for The Unity Federation. Miss McDonough has been doing great things in her role at Castleway and I'm excited to work with her in this new capacity. Given that Miss McDonough was a Parent Governor, this now gives us an additional vacancy. I'll share details of the nomination process in due course.

Year 5 Update

Our Year 5 children are the latest inhabitants of the '#CastleCabin' as the building work continues at a great pace in our school. They've settled in brilliantly and are enjoying the proximity to the playground for break and lunchtimes! The building team are currently working on our brand-new children's toilets and new corridor space to allow construction of the sensory room to start. It really is an exciting time for all at Castleway.

Are we 60?

This is an appeal from me to try to pin point the age of our school. From my research and through evidence we've found in school, I think Castleway may be due to celebrate turning 60 in March/April time 2023. This would be amazing timing as this is when our building work is due to be completed. If correct and we did open in March/April 1963, it sounds like we're due a big Castleway party in April next year! If you have any information that could help us, please get in touch!



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Years 5 & 6 in Forest School

Some of our Year 5 and 6 children have had a great day testing out our new Forest School! They've explored their environment and had a closer look at nature! They created a super den and worked really well as a team! They were rewarded with a well-deserved hot chocolate around the fire pit with the nursery children too. We are so lucky to have such great outdoor space.



Nursery in Forest School

Forest School is back and it's bigger and better than ever before. How many schools can say that their Forest School provision is in an actual forest? Well, we can! Our Nursery children have loved venturing out to the forest and exploring our vast outdoor learning space. All children loved getting stuck in splashing, climbing, balancing, searching for bugs and making each other mud pies. The highlight was finished their session with a delicious hot chocolate and biscuit around the fire pit.

We have big plans for our Forest School and can't wait to see all of our children benefit from this amazing space.

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Nursery School Phonics Session



It was brilliant to welcome so many of our Nursery School families in to talk about the important work we do in phonics.

Our children absolutely loved having you in their classrooms and we can't thank you enough for the enthusiasm in which you got stuck in to all of our activities and games!

Huges thanks to Helen Bibby and the wonderful Nursery School team for making this event happen. Keep an eye out for what's coming next!



Really Red Robot Fun

This week, our Nurture Class have been busy making sounds! The focus this week has been 'r' for the Sound Train character Robbie Robot. Like everyone else in nursery, they have been learning all about the colour red and even enjoyed a story about a baby robot!

As you'd expect from a class at Castleway, they made rainbow pictures and had a lovely time playing with played with some gloop.



Seeing Red in our Twos Room!

For a school that is very proud of being navy blue, our youngest children have had a wonderful week learning all about the colour red! From learning the rainbow song (of course) to learning some colours in sign language, it's been fabulous fun! The focus text for our children has been Little Red Riding Hood which has led to children using prompts to retell the story and resulted in our children opening their own shop... they had this idea well before the #CastleShop opened so you might say they inspired us!

Our children really enjoying taking part in imaginative play and impressed our staff with their levels of independence too!



Warming up for the Elf Run!

As you'll know, we're delighted to be supporting Wirral St. John's Hospice by taking part in their 'Elf Run' this year. We were thrilled to welcome John the Bear to our Nursery School this week to get everyone excited about the fun we'll be having. As you can see, Mrs. Gallagher was more excited than usual! Don't worry though, John the Bear and the team will be visiting our Primary School next week to get everyone on the primary side excited about the big event too! If you're in a position to donate, there's a Just Giving page available here: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/castlewayprimaryelfrun>.

Primary School PE Timetable

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|--------|-----------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|--------|
| Y2 | Reception, Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6 | Y1 | Reception, Y5, Y6 | Y3, Y4 |

Dates for your Diary

Please take a moment to look at the dates for your diary to make sure you're up to date with what's coming up at Castleway. We've highlighted new or changed dates in yellow for your attention.

| When? | What? | Who? |
|----------|---|--|
| 07/12/22 | Elf Run | Primary & Nursery Schools |
| 08/12/22 | Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children | All children and staff of both schools |
| 08/12/22 | Christmas Dinner Day | All children and staff of both schools |
| 08/12/22 | Christmas Fayre | All children, staff and families of both schools |
| 14/12/22 | A very Castleway Christmas! (9:00am & 2:00pm) | Nursery School Families |
| 15/12/22 | Reception & Year 1 Nativity (9:30am & 2:00pm) | Families of Reception & Year 1 |
| 16/12/22 | Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6 Carol Concert (9:30am & 2:00pm) | Families of Years 2- 6 |
| 19/12/22 | A visit from someone special! | All children from both schools. |
| 20/12/22 | Christmas Parties & Non-uniform Day | All children from both schools. |
| 20/12/22 | Finish for Christmas Break | All children and staff of both schools |
| 04/01/23 | Return to School | All children and staff of both schools |

Six pages of Castleway fabulousness confirms just what an amazing week we've had!

Have a lovely weekend and I'll see you all, safe and well, on Monday morning.

Kind regards,

Mr. S. Mycroft
Headteacher