



# We are Castleway.

**Be kind. Be confident. Be your best.**



Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023

Dear Families,

Yesterday was 'World Gratitude Day' and it made me stop and reflect on the fact that there's so much to be grateful for at Castleway. We really do have the best school community; our children, our staff and our wonderful families. This start to the academic year is honestly the best I have known in my many years in education. There really is so much to be proud of. Speaking of being proud, here's our Friday Update full of all the latest Castleway celebrations and news.



## We are Proud

This week we were visited by our 'School Assurance Professional' who was asked by the Local Authority to spend a day at Castleway to see just how we're progressing with our plans and actions to continue to move both of our schools forward. Please see a snapshot of the feedback below. I'm sure you'll agree with the heading of this paragraph when I say that we are proud...

- Headteacher, new Deputy Headteacher and two newly appointed Assistant Headteachers are providing a strong and experienced leadership team.
- Castleway has an experienced and enthusiastic leadership team who have been effective in identifying key priorities and initiative-taking in seeking and actioning solutions.
- Positive relationships were observed with staff and children.
- Staff were kind and caring and interacted well with children, deepening their learning with effective questions as well as observing from a distance.
- The children were clearly very settled into the school routines at the early point in the year. They were happy and knew what was expected of them.
- An ambitious curriculum is in place.
- Leaders are aware of what needs to be done to improve provision and raise standards.
- Children were keen to talk about their work and were very well mannered and respectful.
- Staff provided clear modelling and explanations, ensuring the children were clear about what they had to do.
- Effective questioning engaged children, clarifying concepts.
- Castleway is a calm, orderly and well organised school.
- All of the children were polite, respectful, and remained engaged and focused on their work.
- The new Assistant Headteacher for EYFS has already had a significant impact in improving the curriculum planning, provision, and assessment across the Early Foundation and Foundation 1 rooms.
- A very positive start to the new school year.

## Year 4 & 5 Residential Visit

This week we shared details of the planned residential visit for Years 4 & 5. Mr. Kenningham will be sharing a date to answer all of those questions that we are sure you have. We've done our best to keep the cost of this trip as affordable as possible. Full details of the cost, dates and payment options are on the letter that was shared this week. [If you missed the letter, please click here to have a read!](#) We really are hoping that as many of our Year 4 & 5 children have the opportunity to take part in this life skill building experience. Don't think we've forgotten about Year 6, there's something a little different coming for our oldest children before they leave us. Watch this space.

**Headteacher: Mr. S. Mycroft**

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### **Nursery School Stay & Play**

It was lovely to welcome our families from Early Foundation and Foundation One in to our Nursery this week for our first stay and play. You really don't get the same feeling from an empty school so if you can join us in Early Years, please do. Our Stay and Play sessions will continue each Wednesday from 3pm.

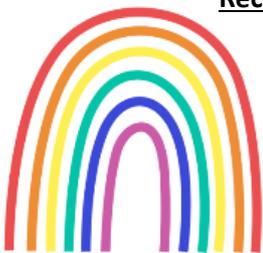


### **Reception Class are super stars!**

We really are incredibly proud of our Reception Class children. They have settled brilliantly and are already hard at work making learning look really easy! Huge thank you to Miss Wallace, Mrs. Clay



### **Reception Class 2024 – Apply Now!**



*A rainbow of opportunity*

Speaking of how wonderfully our Reception Class have settled, believe it or not, it's already time for families to be thinking about making their application for primary school places for Reception Class 2024. We've seen so many first-choice applications on the portal already and this really is sheer testament to how hard our school team work each and every day to make sure that Castleway is the best that it can be! The feedback from our external audit this week is further evidence of why the only way is Castleway.

If you'd like to have a look around the new and improved Castleway (or know someone who might) then please do get in touch. Applications for Reception Class 2024 need to be made through the Wirral Portal. The portal can be accessed here: [Castleway Applications](#).



### School Spider

If you haven't already, please ensure that you have downloaded the School Spider app. We are no longer be using Parent Mail and School Spider will be your point of contact for updates, news and events. Also, all bookings for Breakfast and After School Clubs will only be available through School Spider. Thanks to those who have been helping others to sign up and get going on the app. If you have any questions, please contact our wonderful office team who, as you know, will be more than happy to help!



### Reading Café

Yesterday afternoon we introduced the children from Years 1 & 2 to our Reading Café. Families are welcome to join us weekly to share books with their children, with rewards and incentives along the way. Don't worry if you can't make it, as you can see, no one misses out at Castleway with our brilliant Reading Buddies! Full details are in the letter from 12/09/23: <https://bit.ly/Castleway20230912>. We're already look forward to Reading Café next Thursday!



### 'We are Castleway' – Our School Principles

 **We listen to each other.**

**We respect each other and our community.** 

 **We look after each other.**

**We keep each other safe.** 

 **We are Castleway!**

At Castleway, we don't have 'school rules' we have a set of principles that we all live by each and every day. These principles haven't changed from last year and they also include our Nursery School children too.

Our Castleway Principles cover all members of our school community from children to families and from staff to governors.

We are proud of our community and we are proud of how we look after each other. We are Castleway.



### National Fitness Day

What an active day we had on Wednesday! The day started with a whole school 'Wake Up Shake Up' in the hall with Mr. Smith before each class, including Nursery, took part in a fitness session with Mr. Davies! Thanks to all families for ensuring that our children looked amazingly smart by ensuring they had their Castleway kits on for their active day!



### Cre8ing Communities - Youth Connect 5

We were thrilled to welcome Cre8ing Communities Youth Connect 5 project and host our first course for families today. If you'd be interested in joining, please contact Miss McDonough or pop in to Coffee Morning on Monday. We had some lovely feedback from the group after the first session:

- So proud of everyone today, including myself, thank you for this opportunity.
- Such an empathetic group sharing today and supporting each-other.
- It was a nice to meet everyone. I enjoyed the first session.



### Collaborative Staff Meeting

We loved our collaborative staff meeting led by the History Leaders from our school, Kingsway and New Brighton Primary on Wednesday. Mrs. Smith and her History Lead colleagues did a wonderful job of helping us to reflect on what makes a great History lesson. It was great to see Mrs. Smith talking about what we do so well at Castleway and how working together as a collaborative has benefited us all. We also got to see Mrs. McGee and have a catch up with her too which is always a bonus!



### Tranmere in the Community... at Castleway!

Well, this is exciting! Starting after half term, Tranmere Rovers in the Community will be running an after-school football club at Castleway for Years 5 & 6. To sign your child up, please complete the google form. You can access the form via the link (<https://bit.ly/Castleway20230919>) or by scanning the QR code on the flyer. **Please note that the club does not start until Tuesday 31st October.** Sign up now to secure your child's place and allow us to inform TRFC of the numbers expected.

We are active. We are Castleway.

TRANMERE ROVERS  
IN THE COMMUNITY

Castleway  
Primary School  
Be kind. Be confident. Be your best.  
PART OF THE UNITY FEDERATION

Football Club for Y5 & Y6  
Tuesdays 3:25 - 4:25pm

To reserve your child's place, visit:  
[www.bit.ly/Castleway20230919](https://bit.ly/Castleway20230919)  
or scan the QR code.

Be kind. Be confident. Be your best.



### Dates for your Diary

Please make a note of these initial dates for just some of the events we have planned for this term at Castleway. As always, these dates may be subject to change.

| When?    | What?   | Who?                       |
|----------|---|----------------------------|
| 29/09/23 | Macmillan Coffee Morning for Families   | All Families               |
| 29/09/23 | Cake Sale for Macmillan – Donations welcome!                                    | Primary & Nursery children |
| 17/10/23 | Spooky Discos   | Primary & Nursery children |
| 20/10/23 | Primary School Drama Workshop   | All Primary children       |
| 07/11/23 | Parents' Evening One (only book one appointment)                                | Primary & Nursery families |
| 08/11/23 | Come Dine with Foundation Two – 11:30am   | Reception Class families   |
| 09/11/23 | Parents' Evening Two (only book one appointment)                                | Primary & Nursery families |
| 15/11/23 | Come Dine with Year One – 11:30am   | Year One families          |
| 29/11/23 | Come Dine with Year Two – 11:30am   | Year Two families          |
| 12/01/24 | Whole School Panto Visit – Aladdin<br>(Payments now available on School Spider) | Primary School children    |
| 04/02/24 | Years 4 & 5 Residential Visit   | Years 4 & 5 Children       |

Once again, a fabulous week for Castleway. I hope you all have a fabulous weekend and thoroughly enjoy whatever you choose to do. I'm already looking forward to seeing you all on Monday and hearing all about it!

Kind regards,



Mr. S. Mycroft  
Headteacher

