



CASTLETOWN PRIMARY NEWSLETTER

Summer 2018



Welcome to our Summer newsletter.

Breakfast Club

Please note that **Breakfast Club** is still running on a pre booked basis. All parents who have been allocated a place this year will retain that place unless we are advised that you no longer need it. If you do not currently use this service but find you will need it in the future, please contact the school office to ensure places are available. **Breakfast Club** will begin on **Tuesday 4th September**.

Staffing

As you may be aware we have a few staffing changes happening at the end of this academic year. Miss Humphrey is leaving us to take up a post in Dubai at an International school, Miss Phazey, after 17 years at Castletown, is moving to another full time teaching post in Birtley and Mrs Pritchard has made the decision to have some time for herself and will be retiring in July after supporting teachers and children for 18 years at Castletown. These colleagues (and friends) will be a huge miss to Castletown Primary School and the whole school community but we all wish them every success in the future.

Mrs Subnam and Mrs Dalton come to the end of their fixed term contracts at the end of this term. We thank them for the support and help they have given to the children at Castletown Primary School and wish them well in the future.

We have 3 new members of staff joining us in September. Miss Phillips and Mrs Weldon who are teachers and Mrs Rutherford, a teaching assistant. We also have our first initial teacher trainee, Mrs Dalzell joining the team. I am confident that they will be very happy and well supported as part of our 'Castletown family.'

Attendance

Again I have a plea about holidays taken in term time. Figures up to the end of June show that 1,156 days of schooling have been lost this academic year by children being taken out of school during term time for holidays. This is considerably more than days lost because of genuine illness.

We already know that some children will be missing the very beginning of next term as well as some who will only be back a couple of weeks then taken out of school again. Please be mindful that areas of the curriculum are only covered once and if a block of work is missed because of holidays then your child is at an immediate disadvantage. The expected attendance continues to be 96% for each child.

Uniform

Our children always look really smart and well- presented. Can you please make sure that all children have **plain black plimsolls** to wear inside school. All children should have these as part of their indoor PE kit. Slippers, colourful trainers and sandals are not suitable and should not be brought to school. Outdoor shoes should be **black and appropriate for school wear**. Football boots/colourful trainers and boots are not part of our uniform.

If you wish your child's ears to be pierced, please make sure they are done at the beginning of the holidays so that earrings can be removed for the beginning of next term.

Shaven heads /tramlines and markings / Mohican style hairstyles for boys are not appropriate for school and we would ask that you are mindful of this before the children return to school.

Social Networking.

Facebook is part and parcel of many peoples everyday life. Please be mindful of what you are posting on this site. Anything that comes to my notice that brings our school, staff or children into disrepute will be passed straight to our legal team who will take action against individuals.

School Meals

The new school meals menu will be launched at the start of the September term and will be accessible on the school's website.

The price of a school dinner is still £2.00 per day or £10.00 per week. Can all dinner money be in an envelope and handed in to the class teacher on Monday morning. **Please be aware that all school meals must be paid for in the week in which they are taken, otherwise children will have to move to packed lunches until debts are cleared.**

Absences

Will parents please make sure they telephone school before 9:30 am if their child is absent. This will save a lot of time chasing up children who are absent when we don't have a reason for their absence. **Also can children please be in school by 8.50am as we have a number of children who are late each morning and this is very disruptive to their class when they have to join lessons part way through.**

Nursery

This half term the children in nursery have had a wonderful time exploring nature and the environment. We have watched our tadpoles and caterpillars grow and change with wonder and excitement. We have searched for mini beasts in our nursery garden and have really enjoyed outdoor play in the glorious sunshine. We had a week full of treats with the ice cream van visiting us, our teddy bears' picnic & Zoolab.

The children were amazing at our sponsored work out all taking part with great enthusiasm. We are very proud of our children, they have had a great year and we wish them all well in Reception. Your very generous contributions and continued support is much appreciated. Thank you and have a lovely summer.

Foundation

It has once again been a busy time in reception. This term we have been very busy planting and watching things grow. In our garden we planted potatoes and carrots. We can't wait for them to grow so that we can eat them! In the classroom we had tadpoles and caterpillars. The tadpoles grew into

frogs and we released them into the school pond and the caterpillars all turned into beautiful butterflies which we released into our garden.

Finally we had a great 'Fun Week' last week. The ice-cream man made a visit on Monday we got a little bit sticky but it was delicious!! We had fun with our teddy bears on Tuesday and the sun shone for us. On Wednesday we tired ourselves out completing our sponsored work-out! Phew! Zoolab came to visit on Friday and we got to hold some amazing creatures, we were really proud of the children.

It's hard to believe that the end of term is nearly here. The time has just flown, where did this year go? We are very proud of all the children and the progress they have made. It has been a really great year that has been enjoyed by both staff and children. We would like to thank you for the support you have given your child throughout the year, we could not do it without you. Have a great holiday! Don't forget to wave in September!

Year 1

We cannot believe it is the end of the school year already! The children have worked very hard this year and we can't believe how much they have grown and matured. We are very proud of their achievements this year...

In literacy/Reading:

We would like to take this opportunity to say well done to all children in year one for working extremely hard leading up to the phonics screening check. We are very happy with the results and Read Write Inc. has once again been very successful. In literacy the children have thoroughly enjoyed class novels such as 'The Knight Who Wouldn't Fight' and 'Jack and the Beanstalk' this led to activities such as; character and setting descriptions, instructions, letters, retells, and non-chronological reports.

In Maths:

The children have been busy learning number and place value to 100 this term! We have focused on number patterns including one more and one less, sequencing, ordinal numbers and sorting numbers from biggest to smallest. They have also worked hard looking at volume and capacity and used measurement in real life scenarios. The children have focused on fractions of objects, shapes and quantities and investigated both halves and quarters. Our final focus this term has been on money and time, where the children have been looking at coin/note values and making totals using different coins, alongside telling the time using o'clock/half past. They have been fantastic when using mastery maths skills and have used concrete, pictorial and abstract approaches to solve problems.

In Topic:

The children have loved their topic work this term. We began the term with our castles topic and even had a little visit to Hylton Castle (via the park). The children had great fun- it was a fantastic day! We have ended the term with lots of History and Science. The children have really enjoyed learning about Florence Nightingale and loved our visit to Beamish, where we pretended to be Nightingale nurses going to Scutari! They also loved learning about Samuel Pepys and the Great Fire of London- we painted some fantastic fire pictures too!

In Conclusion:

It has been a successful year and the children have been a pleasure to teach. All the children have worked really hard and they should be proud of their achievements and efforts. We are delighted with

the behaviour and attitude of children this year and it has been lovely to watch them all mature and become more independent. Thank you to everyone who got involved in wellbeing week, it was a great success! The children thoroughly enjoyed it. We hope the children have a great, safe summer and enjoy whatever they have planned. The year one staff would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents for their support and wish the children every success in year two. We are going to miss them dearly!

Year 2

We are now approaching the end of a fantastic year, where the children have worked extremely hard and have been involved in a wide range of activities.

In literacy:

In literacy the children have thoroughly enjoyed the class novel of 'The Twits,' this led to activities such as; role play, hot seating, making and describing characters, retelling the story, letter writing, designing a wanted poster, poems and story maps. The children have also looked at a book called 'Kapiti Plain' which linked to activities associated with Africa.

In Numeracy:

The children have been busy learning a number of numeracy skills, such as equivalent fractions, column addition and subtraction, division using their table knowledge and data handling. The children collected information and presented their results using a Venn diagram, Bar chart and Carroll diagrams. The children enjoyed measuring distance, mass and capacity. It has been a successful year regarding our mastery maths approach. The children are becoming more independent learners and they can select an appropriate resource to support their learning.

In Topic:

They used their science knowledge to make a circuit to light up a model lighthouse. In art the children have been sketching and painting in the style of Turner. They used prints and collage to achieve the effect of African artwork. In geography the children have been enhancing their map skills and identifying countries in Africa. In ICT the children have been developing their word processing skills and have design a branching data base. The children have particularly enjoyed swimming lessons this term and are becoming more confident in the water.

In Conclusion:

It has been a successful year and the children have been a pleasure to teach. All the children have worked really hard for their SAT's and they should be proud of their achievements and efforts. The year two staff were delighted with the children's behaviour, especially when we attended St Mary's Lighthouse, the children had a fantastic time! The children have enjoyed sports day and Wellbeing week, which was a great success! It was a pleasure to see good sportsmanship and exemplary behaviour from the children once again. The year two staff would like to thank all the parents for their support throughout the year, we wish the children every success in year three.

Year 3

The children in Year 3 have had an excellent summer term, embracing the topic of Ancient Rome with real enthusiasm and interest. Our trip to the Roman Army Museum and the archaeological site at Vindolanda provided the opportunity to explore what Roman life would have been like on the edge of an empire 2000 years ago. All of the Year 3 staff would like to thank the children, and their supportive families, for the hard work that they have put in this year. Good luck in Year 4!

Year 4

The summer term in Year 4 has been very busy and very successful.

We have completed our work on the novel 'Mr Stink' by David Walliams. We have looked at many different genres of work. We worked on character descriptions, newspaper headlines and reports, letters, instructions, an election campaign poster for Mrs Crumb and even a 'For Sale' advert for Mr Stink's shed.

In maths we continued to work on our tables, learning multiplication and division facts up to 12 x 12. We also looked at how to find the area and perimeter of shapes and find and translate coordinates of 2D shapes. We also looked at statistics creating and interpreting bar charts, pie charts, Carroll and Venn diagrams.

Through our topic work on the Local area we had a visit from Mr Elliott from Beamish museum who told us all about the life of Charlie Buchan who was a Sunderland football player and went on to fight in World War 1. We also continued our investigative topic work on our visit to the museum where we had to find out why a young boy had lied about his age in order to go to war to fight for his country. In art we studied the life and works of the artist Lowry. Class 11 shared a lot of this information in their class assembly. In our Geography work we also followed the course of the River Wear looking at how it changes and the landmarks that it passes.

We all created some great local art work. The Year 4 skipping team worked extremely hard and won many awards including the best skip dance. A lot of Year 4 were involved in the choirs amazing performances. We had some great inter house competitions for rounders and skipping.

We really enjoyed 'Well Being Week' especially the visit of the owl and the guide dog. We finished our week with a fantastic picnic on the field in the sun shine.

We have had a great time in Year 4 and are looking forward to our summer holidays and joining Year 5.

Year 5

Year 5 have had a very busy term and ended it in style. The profits from the Fairtrade Fair were used to help pay for two trips. We started at Gibside where the children explored and researched different areas of the National Trust site. They also used their Geography skills to complete a geocaching activity. The weather was glorious and the children had fun whilst they learnt new skills. Next, we reached for the sky and worked up a sweat at Gravity Force.

On the penultimate week of term, some of our children completed the Bikeability Programme. The instructors were incredibly impressed by the skills shown by those taking part. They were excellent ambassadors for our school.

We also had success at the Primary Cricket Tournament at Castle View Academy. The Year 5 cricketers won all their games to become champions. We were very proud of them!

We also designed and made moon buggies in Design Technology. Each had working electrical circuits and the children enjoyed testing them outside. Perhaps the children will be inspired to work for NASA or the European Space Agency in the future? Our space topic continued in Art as children created their own space scenes by drawing and shading a space landscape.

We really enjoyed the school picnic to mark the end of Well-being week. The children's behavior was excellent and we all had a wonderful time together on the school field.

We're really proud of the achievements of the Year 5 children and feel they are ready to embrace Year 6 with a superb attitude. We hope they have a wonderful summer and return to school in September ready to hit the ground running!

Year 6

Wow! It's hard to believe that we've come to the end of the academic year. It only seems a short while ago that you started in Year 6. Reflect back over the year... WW2, Eden Camp, Christmas Jumper Day, Earth Matters, World Book Day, Mayor's Parlour Visit, Santander workshop, SATs, NSPCC, Hit the Surf, Well-being Week, not to mention everyday English, Maths and SPaG... You've learned and experienced so much. We were so proud of our children's fantastic results in the recent KS2 tests. We know just how hard some of you worked and we hope you continue with this fantastic attitude next year. Remember, those tests were not the end, they were just one step along the road for you. Keep going! We're writing this after our recent trip to Lightwater Valley - you did yourselves proud. You were a credit to yourselves, your parents and our school. It was lovely to see you all laughing (maybe not after the seventh Ultimate ride...) and having fun. You're definitely ready to take 'The Next Big Step...' Have a wonderful summer. Make sure you come back in September to let us know how you're getting on.

Choir

Congratulations to the choir for a fantastic term and a special well done to all our new members! Due to your generosity, we were able to donate £1000 to the Brain Tumour Charity as a result of our two concerts. A huge thank you to everybody who contributed.

Choir gave a fantastic performance at the Tall Ships Festival in Sunderland. As well as singing some of our own songs, they also participated in a mass singing event

Sport

Football

We have had yet another successful year!

Y5 won the Castlevew tournament and Y4 & Y6 made it through to the county cup finals.

Good luck to all the Y6 children who have attended after school football club this year.

Mr Richards would like to thank all the parents and players for their help and support this season.

Cricket

Y5 were the Castlevew tournament winners this year. Very well done.

Holidays

School closes on Friday 20th July and re-opens Monday 3rd September.

Autumn Mid Term, school closes on Friday 19th October and re-opens on Monday 29th October

The Christmas holidays start on Friday 21st December and re-opens on Monday 7th January 2019

Spring Mid Term, school closes on Friday 15th February and re-opens on Monday 25th February

Easter holidays start, school closes Friday 5th April and re-opens on Tuesday 23rd April

Summer Mid Term, school closes on Friday 24th May and re-opens on Monday 3rd June

Summer holidays start Friday 19th July at 3:15pm.

Inset Days

3rd September is an in set day but school will be open between 8am and 12pm if you need to buy uniform.

School reopens to all pupils at 8:50am on Tuesday 4th September.