

NEWSLETTER

Jan
2024



Good Morning!

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back everyone and a Happy New Year!

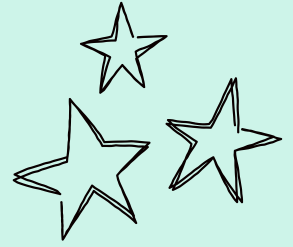
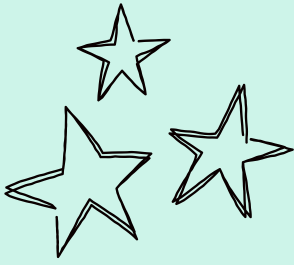
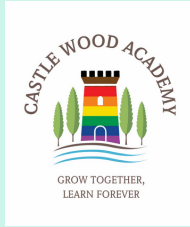
It's great to have everyone back for the start of 2024!

The weather continues to challenge us in many ways with a deluge of rain or icy patches that have been forecast. With that in mind, could you ensure that children are bringing a warm coat to school daily, so that they can still play and learn outside.

This is an exciting term as we move to what seems like deepest darkest Winter to the first rays of sun and Spring. This is also an optimum term for learning especially in year groups where there are national statutory assessments. Preparation for these does tend to 'step up a gear' certainly for teachers although we try really hard not to put too much pressure and awareness on the children. Please see below when the assessments will take place and for which year groups. Of course, as with any week, attendance is really important at these times.

With all best wishes,

Mrs S Wilson, CEO, and Mrs Warburton, Interim Head of School



Dates for your Diary

Friday 9th February 2024 – Finish for half term holiday
Monday 19th February 2024 – School starts back

Monday 19th February 2024 - TT Rockstars Day
Thursday 7th March 2024 – World Book Day
Tuesday 19th March 2024 – Parents Evening
Wednesday 20th March 2024 – Parents Evening

Thursday 28th March 2024 – School finishes for the Easter break
Monday 15th April 2024 – Back to school

Friday 19th April 2024 – Children’s mid-year reports out

A list of PTA event dates will be sent out soon

National Statutory Assessments

13th - 16th May – SATs tests for Year 6.
W/c 3rd June - Multiplication Test Check for Year 4.
W/c 10th June – Phonics screening check for Year 1 and some Year 2 pupils



No-one is the same, but everyone is equal



Attendance

Attendance remains to be a huge focus nationally and of course within our school. Each term now, we meet with a 'partner' from Lincolnshire County Council whose role is to look at caseloads, offer advice and guidance as to our processes and systems.

At the end of the Autumn term 2023 our attendance data was as follows:

Attendance – 95.1%
Persistent Absenteeism – 15%

That means that 15% of children (42 children) have attendance lower than 90%. Please work with us in ensuring that children come to school every day and on time. Late arrivals to school after 9.10 am also count towards the persistent absenteeism percentage. The practical impact though is that children miss out on valuable teaching and learning time. At this time in the morning, every day phonics lessons take place. This is when they learn to read and to write. Any time lost will mean that they might struggle to access the wider learning and their learning journeys.

Grow Together, Learn Forever



Filtering & Monitoring

We take your child's safety very seriously here at Castle Wood Academy and nowadays, this increasingly includes online safety. I felt it may be useful and perhaps give a little peace of mind for parents & carers to outline our online safety systems.

We have robust filtering systems in place to ensure that, while on site, pupils cannot access internet content that is inappropriate. These sites are blocked, preventing access on all school devices and we regularly review this process & add other sites as they become known to us.

Additionally, we monitor internet usage closely. This includes in person, by being vigilant when pupils are using electronic devices in school and also digitally, where we are supported by software which monitors usage & produces reports. These reports are then used to inform us to any further actions that may need to be taken in order to improve our online safety even further.

All of these measures are outlined in more detail in our Filtering & Monitoring Policy, which can be found on our website.

If we ever have a concern about anything your child has attempted to access, we will contact you to discuss this. Please don't hesitate to contact school if you have any queries about this.

