

NEWSLETTER

Dec  
2023



# Good Afternoon!

Dear Parents and Carers,

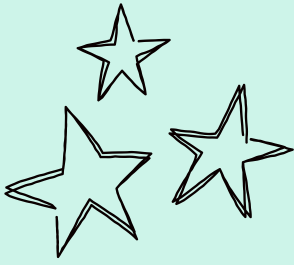
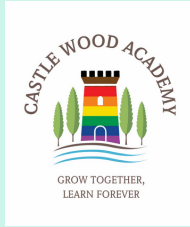
This half term has just flown by in a flurry of festive activities.

We hope that you have enjoyed the opportunity to make crafts with your child, attend nativities and support the school at the Christmas Fair. All of these extra-curricular activities and events really enhance the curriculum for our children but they take a lot of 'behind the scenes' organisation and preparation. I would like to personally thank, first of all, Mrs Hemmings who represents the PTA. She works tirelessly to raise funds for both in-school and charity events. Also to the staff who have worked to prepare resources and the children in singing carols, putting on a nativity and holding creative workshops, thank you.

I would like to wish all families a Merry Christmas and we will see you back for the start of the New Year on Wednesday 3rd January 2024!

With all best wishes,

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



## Fundraising!



### Children in Need

On the 17th November the children celebrated this worthwhile charitable day. They came in either their PJ's or spotty clothing. This all raised £125.02. Thankyou so much for your support.



### Poppy Appeal

A grand total of £135.33 was raised for this worthy cause to remember those who gave their lives. Thank you for your support.



### Sports for Champions

On Friday 24th November Castle Wood were privileged to host professional footballer Tamara Wilcock for our Sports for Champions event. The children competed in various activities across the day and had an amazing time. At the same time, through your support and the sponsorships, we raised funds for the school, to enhance PE provision. Thankyou.



*No-one is the same, but everyone is equal*



# Attendance

Castle Wood attendance remains steady at 95.6%. Our school target in this area is 96%. We are nearly there and it would be great to reach this by the Easter holidays.

Persistent Absence though is slowly increasing and is now just above the national percentage. This means that at Castle Wood Academy we have 17% of children whose attendance is less than 90%, that's 47 children. Some of these absences are due to holidays taken during term-time and others for illness. We rarely authorise holidays during school time as national guidance does not allow us to do this. New Department for Education Guidance has also asked schools to encourage children to come to school when they have a minor ailment. There is an NHS list of minor ailments that we have added to our updated Attendance policy which is available on our Trust attendance page.

[Tall Oaks Trust - Attendance \(talloaksacademy.co.uk\)](http://talloaksacademy.co.uk)

A new addition to this webpage are some videos showing 'Babs' our attendance mascot explaining all things attendance. Please follow the link to listen to her talking about:

- 1) Attendance procedures
- 2) Authorised and Unauthorised absences
- 3) Holidays and Fixed Penalty Notices

Babs will be featuring much more in school relating to attendance so watch this space!

*Grow Together, Learn Forever*



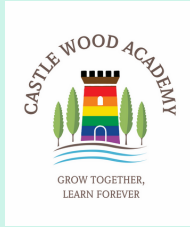


## Books on the Move!

Our library has been on the move! In fact it has moved 3 times now! (Thanks Mr Swetman for your patience as well as your muscle). To make reading and the enjoyment of books at the very heart of our school, we decided that we wanted our library to be physically at the centre of everything that's going on. I'm sure you'll agree that by moving this area to outside the hall along the corridor we have achieved this. Children are enjoying their sessions choosing and sharing books with a friend. We may have a little way to go in making sure that it's left in a tidy way but we will certainly get there.







# Castle Wood Friends - PTA

We would like to say a huge thank you to the PTA who have bought two Tonie boxes and 14 Tonie characters for children across the school to use.

