



Autumn Newsletter
Monday 11th September 2023

Dear parents/carers,

Our 'We Are Conisbrough' theme is well underway with several classes planning to head out on local walks this week. Y6 will also be visiting the Coal Mining Museum on Friday to find out about our local mining heritage. I look forward to sharing the children's learning with you in our next edition of the fortnightly newsletter which will be released every other Monday moving forwards. Further information on the curriculum will also be published on the class pages of the school website.

We have been teaching the children about having high expectations of attitudes, behaviour and attainment. Ensuring that we always follow our key school rules every day, every time!

Be ready, respectful and safe!

I have been very impressed with the children's positive attitude in all aspects of school life and have had a number of children visit the office last week to their share fantastic learning. Go Team Castle!



Last week every child in school should have brought home their individual login details for BoomReader, our new online reading journal.

If you have not yet received these details, please do get in touch, so that we can ensure everyone is logging their reading this week.

A huge shout out to **Year 5** who have the most logs so far! Remember every child is expected to read at least **four times each week**. Four weekly reads will earn one reading sticker and five or more will earn two stickers towards the Castle Reading Challenge. These can then be exchanged for prizes.

Staffing Update:

This week we are excited to be welcoming Mrs Morley back to school as she begins a series of 'keeping in touch' days in advance of her official return from maternity leave after the half term holiday.



Mrs Morley will be returning to teach Year 3 alongside Mrs Cope, as we will be sending Miss Beverley our best wishes as she will be leaving Team Castle at half term.

Parent Partnership

Reading Morning:

Reading Morning will take place every Thursday morning, where parents are welcome to read with their children in the school hall between **8.40am** and **8.55am**.



This is a great opportunity to share a book with your child/ren and make sure their online Reading Journal is up to date on BoomReader.

Upcoming Parent Workshops

FS2 Parents: Introduction to Read Write Inc.

Y1 Parents: Phonics Screening Check

Y4 Parents: Multiplication Check

Y6 Parents: Key Stage 2 SATS

Details to follow...

How is my child getting on in school?

W/b 9th October: Class teachers will be contacting parents of pupils with **SEN Support Plans** in order to review children's progress towards their personal targets.

Parents Evening

Tuesday **17th** October & Thursday **19th** October

between 3.15pm to 6.00pm.

More information to follow.



Attendance and Punctuality

Whole School Attendance: **91.8%**

This is below National expectation of at least **96%**



Remember gates open at **8.35am**, followed by doors at 8.40am.

Make the most of learning and ensure that all children are in their classrooms ready to learn by **8.45am**.

Gates and doors close at **8.50am** and any children arriving after this time will need to enter via the school office and will receive a late mark in the register.

School Uniform Reminder

At Castle Academy, our uniform consists of:

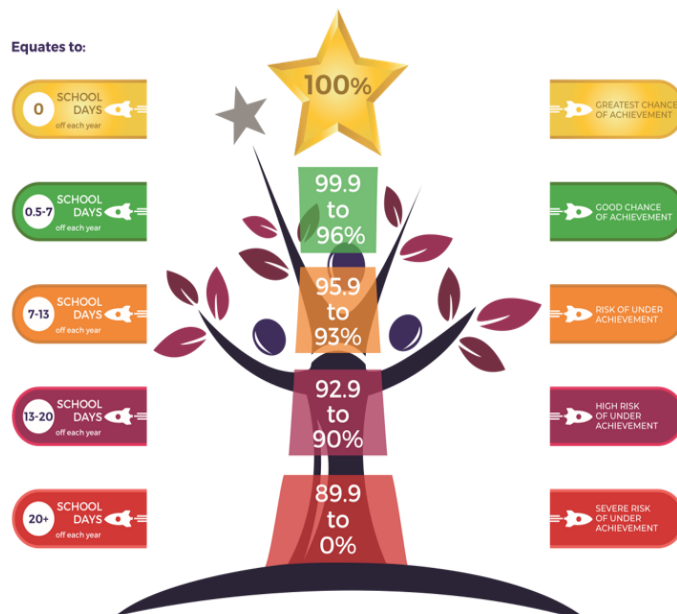
- Red jumpers/cardigans. (**Red or grey hoodies** are not part of school uniform)
- White polo t-shirts, shirts or blouses.
- Grey trousers or grey skirts or pinafore dresses (*Grey leggings and jogging bottoms are not part of our school uniform and should not be worn in school.*)
- Jewellery- only **one** pair of **stud** earrings are permitted - These must be removed for PE. (*No items such as rings, bracelets or necklaces.*)
- Black school shoes or trainers (*No coloured trainers.*)
- Remember we are encouraging the return of bringing a **red book bag** to school everyday

Here is the link to our school uniform shop <https://myclothing.com/castle-academy/6295.school>

We understand that purchasing uniforms can be a costly affair at any time, however, during the current cost of living crisis this is likely to be even more difficult for many families. Please do contact the school office if you are experiencing difficulty in providing uniform and we can check our 'Pre Loved Uniform' stock and support you discretely.

Term Time Holidays

It was great to welcome everyone back to school last week. However, over half of the absences last week were holidays taken during term time. Under the Government regulations, schools may not grant leave of absence during term-time unless there are exceptional circumstances. As per policy, school will continue to work with the Local Authority, Astrea Attendance Lead and the Education Welfare Officers to follow attendance policies and procedures. This will lead to fines for parents who continue to take their children out of school for a period of **5 days or more for an unauthorised** holidays during term time.



Dates for your diary

September

- 11th Y6 Local Walk
13th Y3 St Peter's Church visit; Y5 Local Walk
14th Y6 Residential Visit Parent Meeting- 3.30pm & (5.00pm Virtual)
15th Y6 Coal Mining Visit
25th Recycle Week
26th McMillan Coffee Morning- Mrs Taylor (SENDCO)

October

- Walk to School Month; Black History Month
11th Doncaster Cross Country Finals
16th Y6 Bikeability
17th & 19th Parents Evening
19th School Photos & siblings
20th Harvest Festival - 2.15pm



November

- 1st Halloween Disco
6th National Parliament Week- Pupil Leadership Elections
10th Y6 Remembrance Service
17th Children in Need



December

- 1st Carols Around the Tree- Community Event at Cenotaph (Low Rd)
14th KS1 Nativity Performance 2.00pm
20th Christmas Party Day
21st Christmas Concert- 1.15pm



Key Assessment Dates

It is extremely important that every pupil has the opportunity to complete statutory assessments and we strongly discourage families from booking holidays during term-time, especially during the following assessment periods:

- FS2-** Reception Baseline Assessments- September 2023
Y1- Phonics Screening Check- Week of Monday 10th June 2024
Y4- Multiplication Tables Check- Monday 3rd June to Friday 14th June 2024
Y6- SATs Monday 13th May to Thursday 16th May 2024

PE Kit Reminder

When does my child have PE?

- FS2- Tuesday
Y1- Monday & Thursday
Y2- Monday & Friday
Y3- Tuesday & Friday
Y4- Monday & Friday
Y5- Monday & Thursday (Th-swimming)
Y6- Monday & Friday

Your child is expected to come dressed smartly in their PE kit on specified days.

- A plain white T-shirt
- Black shorts/jogging bottoms
- Black trainers/pumps
- Red jumper/cardigan
- Earrings are not permitted during PE

Extended School Provision

Breakfast Club- everyday at 7.45am costed at £2 per session.

Afterschool Clubs: Bookings must be made via MCAS.

Monday- Dance (3.15pm-4.15pm); Forest School (3.15pm-4.00pm)

Wednesday- STEM Club (3.15pm-4.00pm)

Autumn 1- Coffee Morning

Tuesday 26th September- 8.40am

We are looking forward to welcoming parents to our first Coffee Morning of the year which will be held in order to raise funds for MacMillan Cancer Support.

This event will be hosted by Mrs Taylor who is looking forward to meeting you all.