



Dear parents/carers,

This week we will be celebrating **European Modern Languages Day** and are having a French themed week. It is a national curriculum requirement that children within Key Stage 2 are taught a modern foreign language and at Castle Academy we teach French. In fact, we help prepare our children by exposing them to French from as early as FS2 and this continues throughout Key Stage 1. Learning French also supports transition, as our Y6 children moving on to the local secondary schools, De Warenne and The Laurel, are well prepared to access the Key Stage 3 French curriculum.

Learning a foreign language provides an opening to other cultures, fosters pupils' curiosity and deepens their understanding of the world. Our aim is always to broaden children's horizons and encourage them to step beyond familiar cultural boundaries and develop new ways of seeing the world.

Miss Blagden



BoomReader

Well done to Year 3 who have increased their reading engagement on BoomReader this week!

However, it is concerning that we still have high numbers of children across the school that have no home reading logged.

We are hoping that the low engagement is due to teething problems whilst everyone gets used to the new system and we will soon see an increase in reading logs. Reading at least 4 times a week is part of the children's weekly homework and enables them to be rewarded through the Castle Reading Challenge incentive.

Miss Kelly and the Reading Ambassadors will be available to support with devices during Thursday's Reading Morning. We do hope you can join us!

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.

Autumn 1- Coffee Morning



Tuesday 26th September- 8.40am- 9.10am

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.

Castle Curriculum Highlights

Enrichment: We Are Conisbrough!

We want our children to grow up to be proud of their local area and become citizens who respect and make a positive contribution to their community.

Each year, we begin with the shared theme of 'We are Conisbrough' and in each year group we learn about different aspects of local heritage.



Year 3 visited St Peter's Church.



Year 6 went on a local walk to the site of the Cadeby Colliery and also visited the National Coal Mining Museum.

FS2- Our School

Y1- Homes (Now & Then- Castle Museum)

Y2- Conisbrough Castle

Y3- St Peter's Church

Y4- The River Don & Viaduct

Y5- The Kilner Glassworks

Y6- Cadeby Colliery- Mining Heritage



Year 5 visited the location of the Kilner Glassworks and the River Don.



Year 2 and Year 4 will be going out on a local walk in the coming weeks.



Pupil Leadership



School Council:



We held an assembly to mark **International Day of Democracy** on the 15th September. School Council members hosted a **Class Conference** to discuss ways in which we can further embed democracy within classrooms and the wider school.



Congratulations to **Francis** and **Macie** from Year 6 for being voted to become our Head Boy and Head Girl. This was voted for by the staff team in recognition for their positive attitudes to learning and exhibiting the schools values in all they do! We are very proud of you both.



Sports Council



Miss Middlebrook has been supporting the Sports Council to improve playtime provision and promote active and healthy life styles. We are loving our new storage sheds on both playgrounds.

We had an assembly to mark **National Fitness Day** on the 20th September and discussed ways that we can keep ourselves fit and healthy.

Sports Council hosted a **Class Conference** to come up with a list of 'Active Challenges'.



We will be working with the School Nursing team to achieve the Healthy Learning, Healthy Lives accreditation this year.

Together we are... TEAM CASTLE!



Eco Council:



Eco Council have set up a new recycle station for bread bags and toothpaste tubes in the infant corridor.

It cost £26 to buy the new storage boxes and Joshua has calculated that we need to recycle 1,300 bread bags to recoup the funds spent. Each bread bag is worth 2p, so please don't forget to bring them into school!

Eco council are getting ready for Recycling Week in October and are looking at other ways we can reduce, reuse and recycle across school.



Reading Ambassadors:



Reading Ambassadors will be opening the school Library on a **Tuesday & Thursday** morning playtime.

Miss Kelly has secured additional funding for books and Reading Ambassadors are going to host a **Class Conference** to find out what books (fiction and non fiction) and authors our children would like to read more of in school.



We are also working on creating outdoor reading areas in both KS1 and KS2.



Attendance and Punctuality

Whole School Attendance: **93.4%**

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

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** holiday during term time.



Dates for your diary

September

W/b 25th– Celebrating European Foreign Languages Day– French!

26th McMillan Coffee Morning– Mrs Taylor (SENDCO)

28th FS2 Family Reading & French Breakfast– **8.40am-9.10am** (FS2 Classroom)

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– Monday & 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)

Friday– Doncaster Rovers Girls Football Club (3.15pm-4.15pm)



French Breakfast for European Modern Foreign Languages day on Tuesday 26th September.