

Friday 30th November 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week in school we met a special visitor. He is making a short video of life at Castle Academy which will be added to our school website. This will be really useful for families joining the school and who are not able to visit us. Thank you to the parents who were took part in this- your voice will be really powerful in showing new parents that Castle is a good place to bring their child. The children behaved brilliantly. Some were interviewed and some demonstrated what good learners they are during the classroom filming. I will edit the video ensuring that it does not include those families who do not wish for their child to be seen on our website.

Christmas festivities.

The dates for these are on the reverse of this newsletter but a few of you have asked questions about the events. We are finishing the term by hosting our Christmas Fair which I hope you will be able to attend. This year's performance for parents is split over 2 sessions- the KS 1 Nativity and the Curriculum landing assembly which will include a musical performance chosen by the children. Please remember the School Council non uniform day and craft afternoon.

Parents are invited to get involved at 1.30 pm. Please bring a donation of £1 which will be used for Christmas treats for the children. There will also be Christmas refreshments on sale for you and the children for a small donation. Again all donations will help us to create a super Christmas for your children.

Funding and school visits

I have had a few queries about the funding of school visits and so I thought some clarification would be useful. As part of visit planning the school looks at the total cost and cost effectiveness of the intended visit. This cost is then divided by the number of children and parents are asked for a voluntary donation. An example of this would be the KS 2 Graves Gallery visit. The train per child amounted to £2.97 and the gallery workshop £5.94. The remainder of the £9.00 which parents were charged was used towards the insurance payment the school pays for these visits. I can confirm that no parent is asked to pay for another child. I would also like to point out that as a school we endeavour to make the curriculum exciting for your child and visits play an important part in this. The school does not receive any government funding which is allocated to visits and so any non- payment means that the school does in fact incur a debt. You have seen that we have been stepping up our fund raising efforts with the support of the PTA group. Any funds raised from our various activities goes back into improving the school for your children. If anyone has any questions about funding then please let me know.

Attendance

Whole school attendance was right on target at 95% last week.

Well done Jaguars - you have been awarded a certificate for the highest attendance.

Lynx and Cougars were awarded the certificate for being on time every day- well done!

Remember- any class managing 100% attendance all week will be able to have a non -uniform day on the Friday of that week. We are also holding a 100% attendance tea party at the end of each full term.

Reading Challenge.

Each Thursday children will add a star to the Golden Book, be recognised in our special assembly and have their name added to the prize draw. At the end of each term we will pull out 2 names so the more you read the more chance you have of winning!

This week we have 46 stars in our book which means that 34% of children recorded that they had read 4 times this week.

I hope you have a good weekend.

Ann-Marie Mason

Principal



Outdoor Learning

Year 2 children used the tools for the first time to cut and create these wooden necklaces.



French of the week.

In my French lesson this week we have started to learn a French Christmas Song

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N5jDlspik1>

Well done to the following children who were awarded certificates in assembly this week.

Year Group	Name	Reason
Lynx	Jacob Carter	Great attitude towards caring for the environment on our local walk. Using his phonics skills independently.
Tigers	Macie Mitchell	For being an amazing role model to all other children in the classroom and consistently trying her best. For trying so hard in his writing to use his phonics and becoming a "super dooper" speller!
Leopards	Ollie Mason	For demonstrating excellent confidence and understanding in maths. For always following instructions carefully and being kind and considerate to others.
Jaguars	Alfie Ebony	Making an extra effort to improve his all-round writing skills For always following instructions carefully and being kind and considerate to others.
Cougars	Max Lexi	For a fantastic improvement in his written instructions from cold task to hot task. For using and applying features from toolkit within written instructions.
Pumas	Zack Reece	For showing resilience and increased confidence during maths lessons. For increasing his focus and remaining confident throughout all lessons.

Golden Time

Below is a breakdown of how many children earned the full 50 minutes for the last week of last term.
Thank you for maintaining your support of the strategy.

Week	Lynx	Tigers	Leopards	Jaguars	Cougars	Pumas	School Total
12 th November	94%	76%	70%	61%	83%	67%	75%

Dates for your diary- dates in red are new

Tuesday 4th December 2pm Pantomime for children in school.

December 6th - School Council non uniform day and craft afternoon.
Parents invited at 1.30 pm. Please bring a donation of £1 which will be used for Christmas treats for the children.

7th December- Curriculum landing assembly to include a musical performance at 10 am and Santa Sponsored Walk. Parents invited.

11th 9.15 am Nativity Performance- all welcome and a repeat performance at 2pm- all welcome.

12th Year 1 safety talk. Playground leaders training for children.

12th December 5pm PTA AGM- new members welcome.

18th December – Church Christmas Assembly

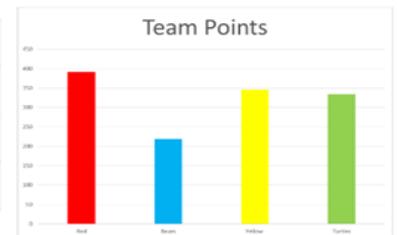
19th Christmas dinner followed by 100% Christmas Golden Time.

21st 2pm Christmas Fair- all invited- come and join in the fun

School closes on Friday 21st December

This week's winners.

Red	391
Bears	219
Yellow	345
Turtles	334



Sheffield Hallam Fundraising appeal.

We are taking part in the above challenge. The fundraising competition provides schools with the opportunity to fundraise over the Christmas half term and all money raised will go back to the school with prizes for the top 6 schools.

Our target is £2500 and we have until 24th December in which to raise as close to this as possible.

We will be hosting a sponsored Santa Walk on Friday 7th December following our Curriculum Landing assembly.

<https://www.cashforkidsgive.co.uk//campaign/school-challenge/fundraisers/castle-academy/>

Come on Castle!!

Station Road, Conisbrough, Doncaster, DN12 3DB.

Phone: (01709) 513010

E-mail: admin@astreacastle.org

www.astreacastle.org

Principal: Mrs Ann-Marie Mason

Assistant Principal: Miss C. Blagden