



# The Herald

16th January 2026

The Year 2 children loved their visit to SeaCity museum this week. They learnt so much about the Titanic and wanted to share what they had learnt. They were brilliantly enthusiastic in the museum and a credit to the school.

We have added a new section to the newsletter this week. This is all about the National Year of Reading, which we are taking part in. Mrs Cameron will be keeping you up to date with the latest events we will be taking part in.

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Fitz

## Class Stars of the Week



Raeya  
Ameera  
Alexia  
Robert  
Aidah  
Daniel



## Mrs Fitz's Star of the Week



Mrs Nocella



## National Year of Reading



Part of the  
National Year of Reading 2026

GO  
ALL  
IN.

The National Year of Reading has officially been launched this week with schools across the country. This is in response to the national decline in the love of reading and reading for pleasure amongst our young people. As a school we are committed to fostering and promoting a love of reading for our children. I am busy putting together a plan for the year which will include a variety of activities, events and initiatives that we are very excited about.

Thanks to your generous donations at Christmas, this month our School Council will be driving the selection of some magazine and comic subscriptions to enhance the reading materials available to the children in school. Huge thanks also goes to Macmillan publishers and one of our parents for their kind and generous offer of books for our reading sheds. We have placed an order this week and we are excited to set up our reading sheds and launch them later in the term.

**Up-coming events:** Week beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> February - National Storytelling Week

I look forward to sharing more details with you in the coming weeks and invite you to GO ALL IN with us in the National Year of Reading 2026!



Mrs Cameron

**Early Years**

This week, the children have had a very exciting expedition to Antarctica! We explored the different features and wildlife living there. They have been learning about several different explorers who have attempted or made it to the South Pole including Shackleton, Amundsen and Scott. In maths, we have been comparing mass, exploring capacity using the terms full, empty, nearly full and nearly empty and measuring.

Next week, we will be comparing the similarities and differences between the Arctic and Antarctica and discussing the animals that live there, we will also be reading the book 'The Emperor's Egg' and writing simple sentences about the life of an emperor penguin.

In maths, we will be introducing and exploring the number 6, revising 2D shapes, learning about hexagons and thinking about how there are different ways of making the same amount.

On Tuesday (**20<sup>th</sup> January**) at **9am**, we are hosting a handwriting workshop where we will demonstrate our handwriting lessons followed by a presentation explaining our handwriting scheme – Kinetic letters. We would love to see you there!

Thank you for your continued support and have a lovely weekend!

Early Years Team

**Year 1**

We have already completed the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of our exciting project 'Showtime'! This week the children have continued to retell the story of 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' and have written about the middle part of the story, using phrases and simple sentences. We have also revisited contractions, for example **can not** in contracted form becomes **can't** and **do not** becomes **don't**. The children have also been busy designers this week and have created some fantastic designs for their puppets! Next week we will be discussing suitable materials to use for their puppets so that they do not fall apart like Mrs Fulbrook's and Miss Tripp's!

In Maths we have continued our **Place Value** block. This week the children have learnt about more than and less than within 20. The children have been securing their understanding of counting forward and backwards for any given number within 20. We are very impressed with their progress on this unit so far but please continue familiarising your child with teen numbers and which order they go in at home if possible!

Thank you for your continued support. Have a fantastic weekend!

The Year 1 Team

**Year 2**

Wow! What a week Year 2 have had! The children thoroughly enjoyed their trip on Wednesday to SeaCity Museum to see the Titanic exhibition, we hope that they told you all about it! They made us very proud by upholding our Caste Hill values.

The children have really got stuck into our 'Iceberg Ahead' project. They have been keen to share all their facts and findings. This week in our project sessions we have found out and written about the launch of The Titanic. They have also become artists and have explored different shading techniques, in order to get them ready to draw their own artwork of the ship.

In maths this week we have continued learning about money. The children have learned how to make different amounts by using a range of notes and coins. Please could we ask you to support your child in practising their counting in 2's, 5's and 10's.

Thank you for your continued support and have a wonderful weekend,

The Year 2 Team

### Castle Hill Friends

💖 Valentine's Disco – Tickets Now Live! 💖

We're excited to share that tickets for our Valentine's Disco on 12<sup>th</sup> February are now available to purchase. It's always a highlight of the school year, and we can't wait to make it a fantastic evening for the children.

To help the event run smoothly, we're looking for volunteers to chaperone each year group. If you're able to support, even for part of the evening, we'd love to hear from you.

🌟 Please let us know if you can help.

Also on our Private page on Facebook (Castle Hill Friends PTA - Parents ) we are creating a playlist suitable for the event that it will include some of your children's favourites 🎧. Please do send over some comments of your children's choices. We'd love to have some interaction on our page and it benefits our kids after all 🍕

🌟 Scan the QR code below to visit our website and book your tickets.



Thank you for your continued support — events like this simply wouldn't happen without our wonderful school community 💙

Have a wonderful weekend 🌟

### Office Notices

#### Forest School

Forest school will commence after the half term, letters will be sent out in due course confirming what classes are on which days.

#### INSET Days

#### 2025/2026

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2026

### **Thought of the Week**

Next week in school we will focus on our school value of truth. We are particularly thinking about:

I do what I say

This is part of 'We are honest'

Tickle the Truth Dragon



We are honest

### **Diary Dates**

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January – Early Years Handwriting workshop for parents – 9:00am

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January – Open door – 3:15 – 5:00pm