



The Herald

26th September 2025

I just wanted to let you know that from next week we are trialling some changes to our timetable in school. We are going to have assembly in the afternoon, just before home time. We will then move story time to either before or after breaktime. The children will eat snack at this time and, if requested, have milk.

Although the sun is shining, please could we ask that all children bring a coat into school each day. As we know, the British weather can be so changeable.

On Wednesday we celebrated National Fitness Day with 10 minutes of exercise at 10am. The whole school participated in this.

On Monday 6th October, we are holding our school Harvest Festival. This is just for the children. As part of this we would like to collect tinned or dried food (unfortunately fresh food will not be suitable). We are collecting for the Basingstoke Food Bank which distributes food to local families when they are in need. Any contributions will be greatly appreciated and can start coming in from Wednesday next week.

Please remember that we have an open-door policy. If you have concerns, we are always happy to discuss these with you. Please just pop into the office to arrange a convenient time with your child's class teacher, Mrs Cameron or myself. Even if you think it is just a small thing, it is better to come and talk with us straight away.

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Fitz

Class Stars of the Week



Sonny
Amelia
Penelope
Basma
Airlee
Masie



Mrs Fitz's Star of the Week



Prajnaya



Early Years

What a fantastic week we've had in Early Years!

The children are continuing to settle in brilliantly. They are becoming increasingly confident with our daily routines and are building strong foundations for their learning journey.

This week in Maths, we've had great fun exploring the concepts of **big and small** as well as **more and less**. The children loved getting hands-on during Sparkle Time, using practical activities to reinforce and deepen their understanding.

In our project lessons, we've continued to talk about emotions using *The Colour Monster* as a guide. This story has helped the children to recognise and name their feelings, and we've begun exploring simple strategies they can use to manage them. It's been wonderful to see them becoming more confident to express themselves.

The children also completed their first entry in their project books, drawing something they love and explaining why it's special to them. This was a lovely opportunity for self-expression and helped us learn more about their individual interests.

Tapestry is now up and running! Keep an eye out for updates on how your child is settling into Early Years — we're excited to share their learning journey with you.

Looking ahead to next week:

- We'll be continuing our focus on ourselves and others, encouraging the children to explore what makes them unique and celebrating differences among us
- **Handwriting** will begin and we start learning our first set of sounds in **Phonics!**
- In **Maths**, we'll be learning about the concepts of **same and different**, with opportunities to compare and match objects
- **Time to Talk books** will be sent home on Monday. Please read the information inside the front cover. We hope you enjoy sharing these talking tasks with your child as they will support them to join in with discussions and learning in class. It would be great if you could record any discussions you have in the book for us to see and make sure that they are in book bags each day

This week we have had trouble reuniting uniform back with the rightful owners. Please could you ensure **all belongings are clearly labelled**. As the weather changes, please could you make sure that your child has a named coat in school as they do have the opportunity to access the outside area.

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

The Early Years Team

Year 1

It's been a busy week! We have introduced adjectives and verbs this week and the children have come up with their own sentences to write about the characters from the book, *Somebody Swallowed Stanley!* We have also looked at past tense and practised writing words with an 'ed' ending.

In maths, we have been consolidating $<$ $>$ and $=$ as well as looking at ordering. Next week we will be introducing part-whole models and fact families.

The children are very excited about their trip to QMC on Monday, the knowledge that they will gain there will enhance the science we will be focusing on in class next week.

A polite reminder that forest school is on a Wednesday afternoon.

The homework diary that was used in early years carries over into year 1. If you no longer have that diary, please let us know so that your child's reading can be recorded.

Thank you.

The Year 1 Team

Year 2

It has been a very busy week in Year 2! This week the children have researched polar bears using Britannica and have used this information to write fact files. We have read more of our story 'The Journey Home' and have met a new animal – the panda. The children have recapped nouns and adjectives to create expanded noun phrases such as big busy city and tall pointy buildings.

In maths, the children have revisited comparing objects and numbers. They have used numbers up to 100 and compared them using the symbols for greater than >, less than < and equal to =. We have also recapped counting in steps of 2s, 5s and 10s. Next week we will begin counting in steps of 3, recap bonds to 10 to then secure bonds to 20.

The children are excited about their trip to QMC on Tuesday. Sycamore will be going in the morning and Maple will be going in the afternoon.

Home learning will be sent home this week in children's Time to Talk books. In there, you will find the slip which will advise which animal your child can research and create their habitat in a box.

Have a wonderful weekend,

The Year 2 Team.

Forest School

What lovely weather it has been this week for the Forest School sessions! On Wednesday the children in Year 1 enjoyed exploring our new digging area and got creative with clay. On Thursday the children in Year 2 were very busy building dens and we continued using the palm drill to make medals.

Please remember to bring in Forest School clothes on your child's forest school day. The most important items at the moment are a pair of boots or old trainers, trousers and a waterproof coat. As the weather changes the children will need extra layers of clothing, as we go out in most weathers!

Thank you

Mrs Fulbrook



Castle Hill Friends

🎉 WE ARE MOVING 🎉

Hey lovely Castle Hill Infants families! Just a quick heads-up — we've decided to stop posting updates on the current Facebook page. Instead, we'll be using it just for Facebook Messenger communications 💬

But don't worry — we're not disappearing! We're simply moving over to a **private group** so we can offer you more security, privacy, and a better space to get involved and share with us if you want to 😊

🌟 Come join us at "Castle Hill Friends PTA - Parents" 🌟 It's our new VIP lounge — and yes, you'll need to answer a couple of quick security questions to get in. We're keeping it safe, friendly, and fabulous! ❤️

🎄 CAULIFLOWER CARDS 🧑🎄

This week you would have been sent home some Christmas art work with a form and this is for our Christmas cards known as CAULIFLOWER CARDS! For those that aren't familiar with what this is...

Cauliflower Cards are a company we use to make the children's Christmas art (that they do in school) into cards / gifts for you to buy.

This is a lovely sentimental thing for parents but also helps the PTA as we get a percentage of every purchase 🌟

Here's what you need to do ...

- Decide if you would like to make a purchase
- Log onto Cauliflower Cards website and input the code that's on your child's design
- Make your purchase
- Send back the artwork so we can send it away to be made into a digital print.

Artwork MUST be back with the school by **Monday 6th October at the latest (we will remind you) 📅

Purchases will come to the school and be sent home in November so you have plenty of time to get them sent to any international relatives ✈️

Any questions please ask

<https://www.cauliflowercards.co.uk>

Have a good weekend and thank you for supporting the PTA ❤️

Office Notices

Individual Photos

Please note that on Tuesday 14th October the school photographer will be in school to take individual photos of the children.

INSET Days

2025/2026

Friday 24th October 2025

Friday 13th February 2026

Friday 22nd May 2026

Friday 10th July 2026

Thought of the Week

Stand up for what is right

(This links with our Truth Value)



Diary Dates

Monday 29th September – Year 1 visit to QMC

Tuesday 30th September – Year 2 visit to QMC

Wednesday 1st October - Open Door 3:15pm – 5:00pm

Thursday 2nd October - Nurturing Neurodiversity Support Group 9:00am- 10:00am

Tuesday 14th October – Individual Photos